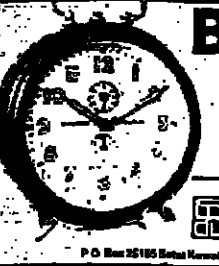


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Hundreds of houses levelled in India and Nepal

Strong earthquake kills at least 600

NEW DELHI, Aug 21, (Agencies): At least 600 people died today along the India-Nepal border in the strongest earthquake to hit the Himalayan foothills in over half a century, officials and news reports said.

Thousands of Indians and Nepalese rushed onto the streets just before dawn when tremors rocked a 1,000-mile (1,600 km) belt across northeast India for about 45 seconds.

More than 3,000 were injured in the quake, which seismologists called the deadliest to strike the Himalayan region since 1950.

The tremor levelled hundreds of houses and doctors treating victims in remote towns and villages said they had run out of blood transfusions.

Unofficial sources said the death toll in Nepal alone was at least 550 and India's state-run television said more than 600 people were dead in the two countries. It gave no details.

Warned

The earthquake, which brought down houses and cracked roads, measured 6.7 points on the open-ended Richter Scale at its epicentre on the India-Nepal border, according to the US Geological Survey in Golden Colorado.

People in the affected areas were warned to expect more tremors in the next few days.

Nearly 300 people were killed in the southeastern part of the Hindu kingdom of Nepal, with Biratnagar and Dharan bearing the brunt of the impact, Nepal

official sources said.

The Seismological Observatory in New Delhi said the quake occurred at 4.40 am (2310 GMT yesterday) and measured 6.5 on the Richter Scale. It lasted about one minute, and the aftershocks continued for about an hour, observatory director H.N. Srivastava said.

Srivastava said the tremor was centred about 40 to 50 miles (65 to 80 kilometres) northeast of Darbhanga, a town of about 800,000 in Bihar. The location puts the epicentre almost on the India-Nepal border.

Officials said most of the deaths occurred in Darbhanga, Munger and Madhubani districts. More than 25,000 houses in those areas were destroyed, they said.

Preventing

V.K. Sharma, a deputy secretary in the Bihar government, predicted the death toll would rise because many people were seriously injured.

Landslides knocked out communication links on both sides of the border, preventing officials from obtaining information about casualties or damage from the remote, hardest hit areas.

"The tolls have come in only from urban areas," Sharma said in a telephone interview from Patna, the Bihar capital.

The monsoon rains, which hit the sub-continent in late June and usually continue through September, also were hampering rescue operations. More than 50 villages were flooded after the quake shifted embankments.

In Nepal, Shailendra Kumar

Upadhyaya, a Foreign Ministry official, said at least 500 people were injured and thousands of houses collapsed from the quake's impact. Other government officials said late today that more than 1,000 had been hurt.

"Most of (the victims were) buried alive under collapsed houses," said Indra Shrestha, a social worker involved in the rescue operations at Dharan Bazar, a Nepalese township.

Populated

In Bangladesh, about 50 people were drowned when huge waves triggered by the quake capsize five boats in the Jamuna river near Aricha, authorities said. The tremor also jolted parts of northern Bangladesh, Dhaka, and Chittagong, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damages.

The quake was also felt in the heavily populated states of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Orissa, United News of India said. Reports of injuries came from the Darjeeling district of West Bengal, the news agency said, but no deaths were reported.

The Press Trust of India news agency said 17 children were killed in Darbhanga town, when a school hostel caved in.

In Biratnagar, where the earthquake killed some 70 people, scores of the injured were lying on the grounds of hospitals filled with other victims, witnesses said.

In nearby Dharan, the quake killed at least 125 people and levelled the marketplace and the suburb of Bijayapur, witnesses



Rescue workers search through the rubble of a house which collapsed near Kathmandu after an earthquake struck the area. (Reuters wirephoto)

said.

"I heard a hissing sound and I was trapped under some beams of a building," Ratul Choudhary, lying in a Dharan hospital, told reporters.

In another bed, Binaya Adhikari was screaming in pain from his wounds, suffered when part of his flimsy house collapsed.

(Continued on Page 2)

Kuwait hopes peace will prevail

THE Council of Ministers yesterday expressed hope that the implementation of a ceasefire between Iraq and Iran will bring peace and prosperity to the region.

The cabinet, in its weekly meeting chaired by HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, also expressed deep sorrow on the death of Pakistan's President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq in a plane crash last week.

The cabinet yesterday discussed the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 598 and the deployment of the UN observers on the Iraqi-Iranian border.

Efforts

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed said the cabinet appreciated the role played by the UN, particularly the efforts of the Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, to bring the Gulf war to an end.

Rashed also said that Minister of Planning and Acting Public Health Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, who attended Zia's funeral, briefed the cabinet.

The ministers expressed condolences to all Islamic countries, the Pakistani people and the family of Zia-ul-Haq, Rashed said.

Ban on Coca-Cola to be lifted

THE GCC states have agreed to end their boycott of the US Coca-Cola company and lift the 20-year ban against their products, according to sources at the Israeli boycott bureaux.

The bureaux have been meeting about the boycott during the past few weeks. The decision, expected to be announced within a week, comes after the main Israeli Boycott Office in Damascus lifted the ban on the black-listed company.

UN boats patrol Gulf

Iraq, Iran trade charges of truce violations

BAGHDAD, Aug 21, (Reuters): UN officials said today the two-day-old ceasefire between Iran and Iraq was holding despite charges of violations by both sides.

"The ceasefire is operational," the Yugoslav Commander of the international UN monitoring force, Major-General Slavko Jovic, said at UN headquarters in Baghdad.

In signs of a slow return to normality, some transport services were restored in parts of western Iran regarded as battle zones until the ceasefire took effect at 0300 GMT yesterday.

Iraq said an Iranian sniper shot dead one of its soldiers on the central front about three hours after the ceasefire deadline.

Burst

Iraq denied the charge, but said Iraqi soldiers on the central front had violated the ceasefire at about the same time with a burst of small-arms fire.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said the firing of 10 shots took place in the presence of officers of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG). There was no immediate comment from Baghdad or UNIIMOG.

Gulf-based shipping sources said that two UN patrol craft, one described as a speedboat, are patrolling the strategic Strait of Hormuz, gateway to the Gulf, and the Shatt Al Arab waterway.

which marks the southern boundary between Iran and Iraq.

It was the first report of UN craft on patrol since the ceasefire took effect.

Iraq and Iran also quarrelled over shipping in the Gulf, where Tehran claimed the right to continue intercepting Iraqi-bound war cargoes until a comprehensive peace was established.

It said it searched an Iraqi merchant ship yesterday but allowed it to proceed.

Ignored

Iraq, which sent the ship into the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz as a test of the ceasefire, said an Iranian helicopter hovered overhead but the captain ignored a demand to stop.

"The Iranians lied because they did not inspect the Iraqi ship Khawla," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted a naval commander as saying.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz protested to the United Nations about the Khawla incident and told Jovic that Iraq would resist any Iranian moves to intercept vessels sailing to Iraqi ports.

Jovic said the UN observers had no confirmed report on the Iraqi charge that one of its soldiers had been killed.

"This is an isolated incident," said a senior UN official who asked not to be identified. "It's a long ceasefire line and it's remarkable that nothing more

(Continued on Page 2)

Oil exports through Gulf

Iraq has secret pipeline ready

BAHRAIN, Aug 21, (Agencies): Iraq has a secret pipeline that emerged unscathed from the war with Iran ready to export oil through the Gulf again, oil and shipping sources said today.

But the sources could not confirm if the pipeline to the Umm Qasr Gulf port was used yesterday to load the first Iraqi tanker to enter the waterway since 1980, only hours after a UN-brokered ceasefire in the eight-year-old war took effect.

"Iraq had built a pipeline to Umm Qasr in 1985 with hopes of starting oil exports from the Gulf, but then Iran took Faw peninsula making it impossible," an oil industry executive said.

Iraq said it had sent 18,000 tonnes of crude oil on the tanker Ain Zala to South Yemen's Aden refinery yesterday but oil and shipping sources said its whereabouts were a mystery.

Destroyed

With Iraq's two deepwater Gulf terminals destroyed by Iran in the early years of the war, Baghdad's announcement that it had renewed exports via the Gulf surprised the oil community.

Iraq had been unable to export crude from the Gulf since the start of the war with Iran and had relied on pipelines through Saudi Arabia and Turkey, and road tankers through Jordan and Turkey to maintain export oil revenues needed to pay for the war.

Oil industry sources said the capacity of the pipeline to Umm Qasr was not known, but judging from the size of yesterday's shipment it could not be very large.

"It is uneconomical to ship 18,000 tonnes of crude on tankers," one shipping source said. "Iraq must have been trying to make a point of free passage through the Gulf."

Oil companies usually charter tankers with a capacity of 200,000 to 400,000 tonnes for oil shipments out of the Gulf.

Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi told the state-run Iraqi News Agency (INA) yesterday that they would gradually increase the exports out of the Gulf.

Needs

But Gulf-based oil traders said Iraq does not need to export small quantities from the Gulf as its pipelines and road tanker fleet currently meet its needs better. Meanwhile, Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Azadeh said that a new oil loading terminal at Gavaneh in the northern end of the Gulf began operations soon after the Gulf war ceasefire took effect yesterday.

Docked

He said the first tanker docked at Gavaneh, 10 miles (65 kilometres) northeast of the heavily bombed Kharg island terminal yesterday.

Gavaneh has an estimated export capacity of two million barrels a day, but Azadeh said that could be increased in the future.

He said that "apart from the United States, South Africa and the (Israeli) regime occupying Jerusalem, we will sell oil to any country that wants to buy it."

Evidence of sabotage not yet found

Report on plane crash expected in two weeks

ISLAMABAD, Aug 21, (Agencies): A report on the suspicious aircraft explosion that killed Pakistani President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq and US Ambassador Arnold Raphael is expected within two weeks, a US diplomat said today.

The acting President, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has promised to make the report public when US and Pakistani investigators finish picking through the debris of Zia's C-130 transport plane. Zia, Raphael and 28 others died when the four-engine turboprop exploded shortly after takeoff last Wednesday as the group was departing from a field inspection of new US-built M-1A1 battle tanks in southeast Pakistan.

Report

Pakistan requested special US investigators to help piece together what Ishaq Khan said was an act of sabotage.

"The expectation was (when the US team arrived) that a report would take two weeks," a US diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

A US official who requested anonymity said the American

investigators had inspected the wreckage. He said he had no details of their findings.

But the official quoted US Secretary of State George Shultz as telling Khan that US officials do not believe any evidence supporting sabotage has yet been found.

"As far as we are concerned, there is no basis at this time for speculation as to the cause," he said.

But Ishaq Khan called it "a dastardly crime" but declined to speculate who might be responsible.

Pakistan has blamed agents of Afghanistan's communist government and sometimes India for a wave of terrorist bombs over the last two years.

The plane exploded and tumbled to the ground about 30 miles (50 kilometres) west of the Indian border, near the city of Bahawalpur.

Several Pakistani newspapers published uncorroborated reports that officials believed the plane was struck by a missile. Still others said explosives may have been concealed in a basket of

mangoes.

Police are investigating the possibility.

Witnesses said they saw an explosion before the airplane plunged to earth.

Another theory is that all the four engines of the plane were jammed in the air by an automatic remote control system of a space satellite.

The daily Nation of Lahore said the engines jammed so suddenly after take-off that the pilot had no time to contact the control tower.

Probe

Ishaq Khan, at his first news conference since being sworn in, said last night "it is my duty" to publish the probe report.

Investigators have detained more than 80 people, including airport security staff and baggage handlers, in connection with the death of Zia, official sources said.

They said authorities had listed the case as sabotage and were expected to charge a number of the detainees when investigations into Wednesday's disaster are over.

Acting President indicates

Elections in Pakistan may be held on party basis

ISLAMABAD, Aug 21, (Agencies): President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has indicated that political parties would be allowed to participate in national elections set for November and denied that late President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq intended to hold them on a non-party basis.

Ishaq Khan, the Chairman of the Senate who assumed the presidency immediately after Zia's death in a mysterious air crash on Wednesday, also told his first news conference as the country's leader that he would continue his predecessor's support for the cause of Afghan rebels.

Penetrated

After taking power, Ishaq Khan declared a national emergency and invited leading military and civilian officials to join him in an "emergency committee" to help run the country.

Asked to clarify why he had declared a previous assertion that Zia's plane was sabotaged in an assassination plot by unknown attackers.

"The enemy has penetrated the inner defences of the coun-



Ghulam Ishaq Khan

try," he said.

Ishaq Khan said he was operating with full powers of a President, but that "a President must be elected finally and when that takes place he will have the normal life of the President of five years."

He said presidential elections would be held 30 days after the federal and parliamentary elections in November.

Asked if the polls would be held on a party basis, Ishaq Khan said, "the elections will be within the framework of the constitution" and later added that "the interpretation of the constitution rests with the Supreme Court."

Ishaq Khan said he would stick to the constitution that provides for party registration and participation. He said he would let the Supreme Court

(Continued on Page 2)

Grenade blast injures 25 in Haifa

Strike marks Al Aqsa fire anniversary

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Aug 21, (Agencies): Two Palestinians were killed and six wounded in clashes with Israeli troops today, hospital officials said. Arabs staged a general strike to mark the 19th anniversary of an arson fire that ravaged the Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.

Police Minister Chaim Bar-Lev announced the arrest of three West Bank men suspected of hurling a hand grenade that wounded 25 Israelis in a crowded shopping mall in the north-eastern port city of Haifa last night.

In the northern West Bank village of Tubas, soldiers shot and killed 17-year-old Rajah Hamad Hamdan during a clash, according to officials at Al Itihad Hospital in Nablus. The Army confirmed the death but said it was checking the circumstances.

In Gaza city, in the occupied Gaza Strip, a military spokesman said the Army clamped a curfew on the Bureij refugee camp after 18-year-old Nael

Hamad was shot to death during a clash with soldiers.

Meanwhile, Israeli Radio's Arabic service said the three men who hurled the grenade yesterday were a father and two sons who work in Haifa. The three were seen fleeing the scene of the attack, the radio said.

Bar-Lev said some 17 other Arabs were also being questioned.

Among the Israeli casualties were two children. Dan Meir, eight, lost both feet, and his

brother, Yonathan, two, was wounded in the abdomen, said officials at Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

Five other family members, including their five-year-old sister, were lightly injured.

"I don't know who threw it, Jews or Arabs, but whoever threw it is below any level of humanity because whether there's a political problem or not, he directed the grenade, and I saw this, toward my children," Mrs Meir told Israel Army radio.

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have contract with God, claims Aquino

MANILA, Aug. 21, (AP): President Corason Aquino, saying she had a "contract with God," vowed today to bring progress to her divided country despite challenges to her capacity to rule.

Mrs Aquino made the vow in a speech during a Roman Catholic mass commemorating the fifth anniversary of the assassination of her husband, former Sen. Benigno Aquino.

The murder galvanized opposition to then President Ferdinand Marcos and helped pave the way for the February 1986 civilian-military uprising that ended his 20-year rule and swept Aquino's widow to power.

Mrs Aquino accused opposition groups of trying to weaken national unity, which had been threatened by a succession of coup attempts.

"Every step we have taken toward progress has been

challenged, particularly at this time of the year, by those determined to see this nation fail," Mrs Aquino told some 2,000 supporters at a suburban church.

"But you and I shall not let it," she added. "We will take this nation as far toward recovery and progress as God, duty and the people's support will let me. I shall not relent, I shall not rest... nothing and no one will deflect me from this task."

Contract

She added: "For my mandate is with this nation, not with its enemies. My covenant is with the constitution, our contract is with God."

Mrs Aquino's remarks

appeared to be her answer to a four-page letter from Vice-President Salvador Laurel, which the president has refused to answer in writing.

In the letter, which the Vice-President released to reporters



Aquino: vows

last weekend, Laurel accused Mrs Aquino of incompetence and challenged her to step down and call a new presidential election. He said that if she didn't he would join the opposition.

On Tuesday, Laurel met with various opposition leaders to discuss formation of a unified opposition party, but his call for a new election has failed to gain the support of major politicians.

46 rockets fired at Soviet troops

Afghan rebels step up attacks

MOSCOW, Aug. 21, (Reuter): Afghan rebels appear to be stepping up their attacks on Kabul and against Soviet troop units still stationed around it.

Soviet media reported that rebels fired 46 rockets at a group of Soviet paratroopers, apparently within the last few days.

Two people were killed yesterday and three injured when Afghan rebels fired rockets at the town of Miharlam east of the capital Kabul, the official Soviet news agency Tass said today.

Action

The report, quoting the official Afghan news agency Bkhtar, said one of the dead and the three injured were children. It gave no other details.

"Altogether 46 rockets were fired at the unit," Soviet Television reported from near Kabul airport, where the troops, part of

a 50,000-strong Soviet contingent still in the country, were stationed. "The rockets were fired from trucks."

The unit's commander, Lieutenant-Colonel V. Denisov, said his men had taken evasive action and no one was hurt. The television did not say which day the attack occurred.

"The situation is being aggravated," Denisov added, saying that caravans full of weapons were travelling from Pakistan to near Kabul on an almost daily basis. "But we must not allow the spirit of our soldiers to be broken."

Tass said six civilians, including two women and a child, were injured when a truck packed with explosives blew up in central Kabul.

Afghan rebel leaders joined heads of state and other dignitaries in Islamabad for the fun-

eral of Pakistan's President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, a firm supporter of the rebel cause despite increasing protests from the Kremlin and the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

Pressure

Afghan rebels have been piling on the pressure as the Kremlin, in line with a UN-mediated accord, has completed the withdrawal of half the 100,000 or so of its troops stationed in the country.

The Kremlin has denounced Pakistan for supporting the rebels in what it says is clear defiance of the accord, signed by both Pakistan and Afghanistan in Geneva in April. The Soviet Union and United States are guarantors.

Two weeks ago the rebels seized the northern city of Kunduz after the withdrawal of Soviet forces. They held it for almost a week and shot down an

Afghan air transport plane carrying government troops to the city.

The rebels have also been bombarding the outskirts of Kabul and the eastern city of Jalalabad, killing several people. Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil said on Thursday they had drastically stepped up activities in the south and southern provinces from which Soviet troops had withdrawn.

Setback

And, in what would be a serious setback for the Afghan government, guerrilla sources said on Friday they had launched a rocket attack on an ammunition dump near Kabul, killing 500 people and injuring 250.

However, neither the official Soviet nor Afghan media have mentioned the alleged explosion.

Singapore MPs retired

SINGAPORE, Aug. 21, (UPI): Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's ruling People's Action Party (PAP) today retired 14 members of parliament in a shake-up that upsets many party loyalists.

The retirement of the older representatives, some who have held ministry positions, is viewed by analysts as a purge of the PAP's "old guard," and represents only the first of many changes slated for the ruling party.

While 14 new candidates for parliamentary elections, scheduled Sept. 3, were presented at a PAP rally, assistant secretary-general Goh Chok Tong said the retirement of the older members "is part of a necessary self-renewal process."

Goh said the retirement of the members was "not a pleasant exercise." Some of the 14 who have been retired are close confidants of Lee.

First real test for Maung Maung

Burmese plan general strike

BANGKOK, Aug. 21, (AP): Truckloads of soldiers stood watch today as up to 2,000 demonstrators in Burma's capital rallied support for a planned nationwide strike to demand an end to one-party rule, an Asian diplomat said.

Diplomats say the general strike called for Monday would be the first real test for Maung Maung, who became President and head of Burma's ruling party after bloody demonstrations toppled hardliner Sein Lwin. The five days of unrest across Burma began Aug. 8, the day student leaders had called for a general strike.

Maung Maung, a Western-educated lawyer, is Burma's first civilian leader since a 1962 military coup, but student leaders were not satisfied and immediately called for the strike.

The diplomat in Rangoon said 1,000 to 2,000 demonstrators rallied in front of Rangoon General Hospital, where similar gatherings took place virtually every day last week. Parked there were five trucks carrying 10-15 armed soldiers each, but no confrontations were reported, the

diplomat said.

He said demonstrators had pasted on the hospital walls posters saying: "We want a multi-party system" and "Join the general strike."

In the Aug 8-12 demonstrations, security forces repeatedly fired on protesters, and state-run Radio Rangoon said Saturday that 112 people were killed and 267 wounded in the capital alone. Rangoon-based diplomats believe the toll was higher.

Death toll

Soldiers since then have not interfered with rallies, and authorities have signalled a much more tolerant approach to protest, which has been fuelled partly by economic hardships in one of the world's poorest nations.

The Asian diplomat said the middle class and intellectuals

believe the people should compromise with the government of Maung Maung, who is seen as a relative moderate and more widely acceptable to the people than the military officers who dominate the top government and party ranks. Maung Maung, 66, was attorney general before taking power.

But many workers do not accept the new government partly because Maung Maung is little known to them, the diplomat said.

The diplomat said the government was unlikely to bow to demands for multi-party rule after a quarter-century of iron-fisted control by the Burma Socialist Programme Party. The party's founder, Gen. Ne Win, led the 1962 coup that toppled the elected government and ended Burma's experiment with multi-party rule.

Car bomb injures 14 in West Beirut

BEIRUT, Aug. 21, (Reuter): A car rigged with explosives and hand grenades blew up near a Syrian checkpoint in West Beirut today, wounding at least 14 people.

Police said a Syrian soldier was among those injured in the blast — an apparent attack on Syria's 25,000-strong military presence in Lebanon.

Two days earlier a car bomb was discovered by Syrian troops and defused near the Central Bank in the Western half of the divided capital.

Syrian soldiers cordoned off the Raouche coastal area after the explosion and fired automatic rifles into the area as they screamed at passers-by to evacuate the area.

Fire

Witnesses said shattered glass, bloodstains, twisted metal and debris littered the bombed area. The blast also set fire to nearby cars and damaged the popular seafood Nasser restaurant.

"We woke up to this sound of a big explosion, crackle of gunfire, and the voices of the Syrians shouting nearby," a resident told Reuters.

"Then they sealed off the place and told us to remain indoors."

The fire brigade arrived and put the fire out.

The explosion appeared to be the latest in a string of shootings and bombings directed at Syria's military presence backing its role as the major power-broker in Lebanon.

At least seven Syrian soldiers have been wounded in two explosions targeting their checkpoints in the past month.

The latest attack rocked Beirut as Syria renewed efforts with Lebanese officials and the United States to ensure a smooth presidential election in Lebanon.

Parliament failed to achieve a quorum at its first attempt to elect a President last Thursday when Syrian-backed former President Suleiman Franjeh, fiercely opposed by the hard line Christian Lebanese Forces militia, looked the only candidate capable of winning.

Lebanon's Interior Minister Abdallah Rassi, Franjeh's son-in-law, accused the Lebanese Forces of using strong-arm tactics to stop Christian deputies attending the parliament session.

House Speaker Hussein Husseini has yet to announce when parliament will meet again to elect a successor to President Amin Gemayel, whose six-year term ends on Sept. 23.

Floods claim more lives in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Aug. 21, (AP): Nine people were killed by heavy flooding in five northwestern districts of Bangladesh, raising the death toll to 13, officials said today.

A senior district official at Faridpur, 64 kilometres southwest of Dhaka, said five people, including two women and two children, were killed yesterday when their boat capsized in the Kumar River. Two more deaths were reported in Chapainawabganj and one each from Manikganj and Magura districts.

The flooding episode, the third in Bangladesh this year, has affected over 100,000 people and damaged crops over large areas in the five districts.

Officials at the Flood Control and Water Resources Ministry here said today that major rivers, including the Ganges and Brahmaputra, were likely to flood in the country's northern and central districts in the coming weeks. Flash floods during June and July claimed at least 60 lives and caused damage worth \$466 million to crops and property.

Egyptian court acquits 15 in subversion case

CAIRO, Aug. 21, (AP): A state security court today acquitted all but one of 16 people charged with attempting sabotage and terrorism in a conspiracy with Libyan agents, the state-run Middle East News Agency said.

MENA said the third defendant, Gamal Mounib, was sentenced to five years in jail.

MENA said the rest of the defendants, totalling 15, were acquitted for lack of evidence.

Mounib, an electronics engineer, was found guilty of illegal possession of arms and explosives, and of using them to "expose the properties of others to danger."

The court acquitted Mounib, and the rest, of charges which included: plotting with Libya to undertake acts harmful to Egypt's political and economic interests; receiving money from Libya; receiving military training in Libya for terrorist attacks.

Mounib and 11 others had also been charged with forming an illegal party of a militant nature. Penal code articles covering

the crimes carry penalties up to life imprisonment at hard labour.

The charges, announced last November, had accused the defendants of "plotting acts of sabotage with Libyan agents against a number of foreign and Egyptian establishments" from 1983 until May 1987.

Explosives

The charge sheet cited an incident in May 1986 in which three of the suspects allegedly prepared and placed explosives outside a joint Egyptian-American bank. The device exploded with a loud bang but caused no damage.

Among the bomb targets also cited were Cairo offices of British Airways and an unspecified US airline, the British-owned Thomas Cook travel agency and a bus taking tourists between Cairo and Tel Aviv. No bombs exploded at any of these targets.

The group included nine professionals, students and peasants and was described as having a militant, pro-Nasser ideology.

Shultz meets Ghali during Cairo stopover

CAIRO, Aug. 21, (UPI): US Secretary of State George Shultz, returning from a Pakistan state funeral, met early today with a top Foreign Ministry official for talks about developments in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Shultz met with Butros Ghali, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, during a brief stopover on his way back from Islamabad where he represented the United States at the funeral of Pakistani President Mohammed Zia-ul-Haq.

Ghali, the no. 2 man at the Foreign Ministry, said his talks with Shultz dealt with the situation in Pakistan, a key US ally in Asia, following Zia's death last Wednesday in the explosion of a military transport plane.

Ghali said the talks also covered developments in the Middle East and the negotiations between South Africa and Angola on independence for Namibia and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

The Middle East News Agency said Shultz, before departing from Islamabad, met with Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid, who represented Egypt at Zia's funeral.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

Kuwait free from cholera

KUWAIT is free from cholera, acting Under-secretary at the Ministry of Public Health, Ibrahim Al Mudaf, said recently.

The ministry took steps to face an outbreak of cholera and other diseases among expatriates, especially those from South Asian countries, he said.

Discussing other health issues, Al Mudaf also said the ministry has solved the problem of a shortage of some medicines and imported all needed medical equipment.

The ministry sends technical teams to supervise the shipping and packing of Kuwait's medical imports. Only the best medicines and other medical supplies are brought to Kuwait, he said.

The under-secretary praised the Ministry of Finance for its co-operation with the Health Ministry and for its development of health services in Kuwait.

The ministry allocated KD 15 million for medicines this year. All urgent needs for medicine and equipment will be met even if the budgeted amount is not sufficient, he said.

Al Mudaf also said the Council of Ministers sent several thousands of tons of medicine and medical equipment to Sudan to help flood victims in that country. He called on all Arab states to do the same.

Qatari official pays rare visit to China

BAHRAIN, Aug 21, (Reuters): A senior Qatari official left Doha for a rare visit to China today, the emirate's official news agency said.

The brief report said Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sheikh Hamad Bin Suhaim Al Thani left Doha this morning for a visit to China which would last several days.

Qatar has no diplomatic ties with Peking. It established links with Moscow on Aug 1, leaving only Saudi Arabia and Bahrain among the Gulf states without Soviet ties.

Relations between Washington and Qatar have been strained since it acquired a dozen sophisticated US Stinger surface-to-air missiles on the black market. Washington said it would not sell arms to Qatar until it returned them.

Citizens fail to submit documents

SALEH Al Yahia, deputy director of the Savings and Credit Bank, said loan payments to citizens who got land allotments have been delayed because citizens failed to submit relevant documents. The loans can be obtained in only 20 days if the necessary papers are produced. He also said the KD54,000 in loans granted for house building are quite sufficient.

Al Yahia called on authorities to end the confusion over distribution of land allotments and to put together a new housing policy. He also called for the building of flats instead of villas because of the limited amount of land available for housing projects.

According to the National Housing Authority's plan, 7,000 land allotments will be distributed to citizens. The bank will pay KD405 million in construction loans, a sum which could be put to better use in the form of investments, Al Yahia said.

Al Yahia also denied that the bank is to be annexed to the National Housing Authority and said authorities are not studying any such proposal.

Chinese minister ends Iraq visit

BAGHDAD, Aug 21, (KUNA): Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Qi Huaiyuan today concluded a two-day visit to Baghdad.

The Chinese official met with Iraqi First Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan. They discussed the Iraq-Iran ceasefire and bilateral relations between China and Iraq.

The Chinese minister also met with his Iraqi counterpart and discussed developments in the Gulf region. The senior Iraqi official indicated that his country's acceptance of the UN sponsored Resolution 598 is firm and that Iraq will join talks with Iran scheduled for Thursday in Geneva.

Qi said he hopes that ties between Iraq and Iran will be based on firm principles.

Arab League team visiting China

Baghdad will not give in to pressure: Hammadi

IRAQI Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saadoun Hammadi said here yesterday that his country will do its best to bring about peace with Iran, but warned that Baghdad will not give in to pressure.

Talking to Kuwait News Agency after his arrival here last night, Hammadi said the forthcoming negotiations between the two countries under UN supervision must achieve durable, honourable and comprehensive peace, not only between Iran and Iraq, but also between Iran and the Arab countries in the long run.

Hammadi arrived here from Baghdad on his way to Beijing as part of a delegation of the Arab League committee formed to monitor developments in the eight-year-old Gulf war.

He and Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed will explain to the Chinese leaders the



Sheikh Sabah

Arab viewpoint on the Gulf conflict.

The two Arab officials visited Moscow early this month while other committee teams visited capitals of the remaining five permanent members of the Security Council.

The minister said he was hopeful that the ceasefire that

went into effect on the war front on Saturday will last and that the area will be free from any problems.

But Hammadi was sceptical about the intentions of the Iranian side. He said Tehran might try to sabotage direct negotiations to be held on Thursday in Geneva by resorting to "illogical" methods or talking about irrelevant issues.

The Iraqis might have the illusion that they are victors and that it has the right to impose its own conditions, he said. "But as far as Iraq is concerned, we have always called for peace and made big sacrifices for the sake of peace, but we shall never accept any pressure," the Iraqi minister said.

Hammadi was welcomed on arrival by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashid and Foreign Undersecretary Sulaiman Majid Al Shaheen.

Gulf peace talks

PoWs are a political pawn

NICOSIA, Aug 21, (Reuters): They squat in rows under a blazing sun, the misery of captivity etched on their faces.

There are about 80,000 of them — Iranian and Iraqi prisoners of war — and their fate is one of the first pawns on the table when peace talks open at Geneva in four days.

Neither side won total victory in eight years of fighting, and each is anxious to be seen to win the peace.

Diplomats say the desire to gain the advantage across the negotiating table, as well as arguments over an ill-defined border and disputed access to the Shatt Al Arab waterway, ensure the Geneva talks will drag on for weeks and months.

The issue of prisoners is humanitarian, and both Iran and Iraq should have an equal interest in getting them home promptly. On the face of it, an exchange should be simple.

Yet no one, not even the Red Cross, knows precisely how many prisoners there are, the diplomats say.

Each side has accused the other of torturing prisoners, of killing some outright and failing to register others.

And some prisoners — voluntarily or under threat of punishment from their captors — have joined dissident military or guerrilla formations which are in

turn likely to prove a stumbling block at the talks.

Iraq, for example, says it has granted prisoners political asylum and allows them to live in freedom with their families.

Not all prisoners are Iranian or Iraqi, for Tehran says it has captured Arabs of several nationalities working with the Iraqis. These too will have to be repatriated.

The diplomats say there is the further complication that some prisoners are not simply soldiers, but high-ranking officials of some political value to their captors.

One example is former Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Javad Tondgouyan, seized along with other officials by Iraqi forces while driving through a contested area in a minibus.

Analysts say the prisoners have been absorbed into the extensive propaganda war between Iran and Iraq, with each side trying to demonstrate humanity by presenting the way it deals with their captives in glowing terms.

Iraq has been at pains to show how "volunteers" — the term it used for Iraqi prisoners apparently willing to collaborate — are well-treated.

They are shown on Iranian television at Friday prayers, wearing blue uniforms, seated in special sections of mosques and shouting political slogans.

Airlines plan to resume flights to Iraq and Iran

BAHRAIN, Aug 21, (Reuters): Several major airlines plan to fly again to Tehran and Baghdad now the guns are no longer pointing skywards.

But they said today they were waiting to see if the Gulf war ceasefire held before sending their airlines into previously hostile war zones.

The ceasefire went into force soon after dawn yesterday. More than 24 hours later no serious violations were reported.

"There is great potential, but we must make sure it is safe first," said Abdullah Karim, public relations manager for Gulf Air, one of the top regional carriers.

Gulf Air was among major carriers including British Airways and Air India which suspended flights to the warring capitals.

The airlines' caution was tragically justified on July 3 this year when the US Navy shot down an Iran Air Airbus over the Strait of Hormuz killing all 290 people on board.

The airliner, which was ascending and in a commercial flight corridor between the southern Iranian city of Bandar Abbas and the Gulf emirate of Dubai,

was mistakenly believed to be a hostile, F-14 Tomcat fighter diving towards the US cruiser Vincennes.

Gulf Air, which halted flights to the capitals soon after the start of the Gulf war, said it hoped to start flying to Baghdad and Tehran by October or November.

British Airways said it would reintroduce flights to both capitals.

"We intend to resume services as soon as diplomatic and operational constraints allow," said a spokesman in Bahrain.

The airline suspended its three-times weekly service to Tehran in March 1985, and its twice-weekly flights to Baghdad in March, 1987.

Air India said it planned to resume flights to Baghdad and Tehran "very soon."

"We are waiting for Bombay to tell us when the service will start," said an Air India spokesman in Bahrain.

"We stopped flights in 1987 after it became too dangerous," he added.

Korean Airlines, which suspended flights through Baghdad

Occasional family visits are published, and Iran shows Christian prisoners celebrating Christmas. Sometimes, a Christian priest is brought in from abroad for special services.

The first task of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will be to gain access to all prisoners in order to draw up an accurate register.

ICRC visits to Iraqis held in 15 Iranian camps have been barred since December 1987 in a dispute over the terms of prison visits.

Iraq initially banned the ICRC from camps in 1984 after accusing it of spying and inciting a riot in one prison.

Last April, ICRC president Cornelio Sommaruga urged Tehran to provide information on 15,000 Iraqi captives who remained unaccounted for. He also charged Iraq with failing to register prisoners since January last year.

Number

In April, ICRC figures for prisoners of war registered since September 1980 stood at 49,285 Iraqis and 12,747 Iranians.

Iraq says it took 18,000 more Iranian captives since then.

One self-declared objective of the Iraqi military offensive launched after Iran's acceptance of the UN-sponsored ceasefire on July 18 was to put more Iranian soldiers behind bars.

The bargaining is just starting, the diplomats say.

Teacher shortage unlikely

THE director of Hawalli educational area, Abdullah Al Rjab, has expressed hopes for a full recovery from teaching staff shortages by the beginning of the next academic year.

He pointed out that the shortages started at the end of last year as a result of resignations and retirements among teaching staff at different schools. He praised the system adopted by the ministry for the coming academic year which calls upon newly-appointed teachers to start their official duties on Sept 1.

In an interview with a local daily, Al Rjab also said that each educational system was characterised by a specific policy. The credit hours system which is being implemented at several schools gives students a greater role in choosing their educational requirements according to their interests and abilities. He added that it is difficult to judge developments and achievements on the strength of a mere two years' experience and that such assessments took time.

He also called on school principals to crack down on cheating among students.

Al Rjab said plans for school administration, changes, improving teachers' teaching abilities, enhancing students' scientific gains and finding new programmes for outstanding students.

Friday market to reopen soon

THE Friday market (Souk Al Haraj) will reopen soon, an official source at Kuwait Municipality told a local daily.

The Kuwait Municipality committee recently recommended resumption of activities at the Friday market at the same location in the Al Rai Industrial Area, the source said.

The market was shut down by the former municipal council. Some restrictions governing dealings in the market are being set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Chamber of Commerce, according to the source.

Meanwhile, a committee of representatives from Kuwait Municipality, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of State for Municipal Affairs and the Interior Ministry is evaluating the activities of some shops in residential areas.

The committee will make recommendations next week, according to the source, who hinted that most of the shops will remain valid until alternatives are provided by concerned authorities.

Problems at the shops will be settled by the end of October and before the grace period granted to the shops is over, the source said.

Training programme

NINETY-THREE students from different schools participated in a training programme organised for the first time by the Ministry of Education.

The programme is aimed at developing students' respect for manual work and teaching different skills, the head of the social activities section of the ministry, Jassem Yaqoub said.

A delegation visited several companies and national establishments to give officials an idea of the programme's objectives and of its benefits to students. Only seven out of 85 establishments agreed to participate in the project. Yaqoub said he hoped for more interest and co-operation next year.

The social activities section organises tours and field trips as well as Umrah journeys for students. Two Umrah trips were run by the section this summer, funded by HH the Amir.

The section also supervises canteens at schools, organises visits abroad and receives foreign delegations.

Arrangements made

THE Civil Aviation Authority followed all the required procedures and made arrangements to receive passengers returning from their summer holiday, Issa Al Mazidi, Minister of State for Service Affairs, said.

He added that 315,528 passengers entered the country through the airport in the last three months, whilst 479,532 left the country in the same period (May, June and July). The figures represent a six per cent increase over the same period last year.

Al Mazidi said that flights at Kuwait Airport handled by Kuwait Airways, Arab and foreign airlines numbered 3,228 regular flights and 530 additional flights in the same three month period.

Arabs make up 63.3pc of all foreigners in Kuwait

Number of Asian expats doubles

ACCORDING to the results of the 1985 general census released by the Central Statistics Department, 98.3 per cent of the expatriates in Kuwait are Arabs and Asians.

Although 35 per cent of Kuwait's expatriates were Asian in 1985, their proportion nearly doubled since 1975, when they formed only 18.7 per cent of the country's expatriate population.

Arabs made up 80.2 per cent of all expatriates in Kuwait in 1975. That figure dropped to 72.5 per cent in 1980 and dropped again to 63.3 per cent in 1985. All other nationalities formed only 1.7 per cent of all expatriates in Kuwait, according to the census.

Contrary to popular opinion, though the number of Asians grew in the last decade, they still only represent just over half of the number of Arabs.

The results also showed the 59.6 per cent of Asians stayed in the country for less than five

years at the time of census. Therefore, two-thirds of the Asians in Kuwait arrived in the country between 1980 and 1985. Only 27.6 per cent of the expatriate Arabs arrived during that period.

Concerning the average stay of non-Kuwaitis, Arabs averaged 10.8 years; Asians, six years; Africans, 4.6 years; Europeans, 3.5 years; and North Americans, 3.4 years.

Female expatriate on average stayed longer than males, except in the case of Asians, where the opposite was true. This could be attributed to the short stay of maids, who are mostly Asian females. The census showed 83.3 per cent of expatriate females came to join their families.

Another striking point emerges when duration of stay patterns of Asians and Arabs are compared. In 1984, 60.3 per cent of expatriates arriving in Kuwait were Asians, whilst only 34.1 per

cent were Arabs. But, the percentage of Asians gradually decreases with the increase in the number of years in Kuwait. Only 13.2 per cent of Asians stayed in Kuwait for 20 to 24 years, whereas 86.6 per cent of Arabs stayed for that long. This drops to 81 per cent in the case of Arabs who stay for more than 25 years.

Asian males formed 59.8 per cent of expatriate males with residence of less than one year, while Asian females formed 61 per cent of all expatriate females for the same period of residence.

However, with the increase in the period of stay, Asian males gradually outnumber their female counterparts. This is more noticeable in residence periods of five to nine years, where Asian males formed 55.7 per cent of expatriate males, while Asian females formed only 23.5 per cent of expatriate females, according to census figures.

War harmed Gulf environment

By Jamal Amin

THE Iran-Iraq war seriously harmed the environment in the Gulf region, Dr Badriyah Al Awadi, deputy executive secretary-general at the Regional Organisation for Marine Environment Protection and secretary-general of Kuwait's Environment Protection Society, told a local daily.

The organisation had been looking forward to the end of the war since it seriously hurt the region environmentally speaking, Al Awadi said.

The marine environment was especially affected, she said. The shelling of 450 tankers in Gulf waters during the war resulted in the spillage of great quantities of oil. However, she said that studies have confirmed that no major damage was done, since no tanker was completely sunk.

Since the beginning of the war and the establishment of the organisation roughly coincided, many of its plans unfortunately were not realised, she said.

Nevertheless, the organisation did not suspend its activities. It organised training courses and provided training opportunities for 400 officers from member states.

Seminars and meetings were also organised and attended by representatives of all the members, including Iraq and Iran.

Now that the war is over, efforts will be intensified towards the implementation of all the environmental projects which were postponed because of the war, she said.

The organisation has played a co-ordinating role among the member states and established a liaison office in each state. International expertise has also been used through co-operation with well-known institutes in the UK.

Traffic department asked to return licence

IN A rare judgement, the Administrative Court has ordered the director-general of the Traffic Department to return a driving licence which was taken from a man because it was obtained by illegal means.

The man confessed to obtaining the licence after paying KD 500 to a man named Adnan, who claimed to be a representative of the ruling family.

The court ordered the licence returned to its owner, saying he was a victim of fraud.

The case began in the Criminal Court, which found Adnan guilty of fraud in several cases, including getting KD 500 each for licences for two other people besides the complainant.

Adnan claimed to be a special representative of the ruling family and showed the recipients of the licences a forged identity card.

The court sentenced Adnan to nine years' imprisonment with hard labour.

After the sentence was passed, the general prosecution returned the licence to the Traffic Department, and asked that the licence be returned to its owner. The department refused, because the licence was obtained by illegal means.

The complainant, Sameeh, consequently complained to the Administrative Court. He said that although he illegally obtained the licence, he had otherwise followed correct procedures and met the necessary requirements, including taking the driving test, to obtain his licence.

The court upheld the complaint and said that the Traffic Department had not made its decision in accordance with the law, since Sameeh had done all that was legally required of him.

Based on the above-mentioned evidence, the Administrative Court ordered the return of the licence to Sameeh and asked the Traffic Department to pay expenses and lawyer's fees.

No food for kindergartens

A RESPONSIBLE source at the Ministry of Education has revealed that the ministry will not provide for children at kindergartens from the beginning of the new academic year.

The ministry had promised to study continuation of food services at all schools after cases of food poisoning last year. At the same time, the ministry said that it would not discontinue services to kindergartens and primary schools. Officials also promised stricter controls on canteens selling foods at intermediate and secondary schools.

The source questioned the ministry's decision to stop providing kindergartens with food since it spent KD2 million on equipment for the central kitchen last year.

The source added that private companies still use unsanitary methods. He said he expects health and nutrition standards to fall since the authorities will not be able to control private food companies.

East German exhibition

ACTING secretary general of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, Dr Sulaiman Al Askeri, met yesterday with the East German ambassador to Kuwait.


They discussed plans for the German Formative Arts Exhibition in Kuwait scheduled for Oct 10 to Nov 3 at the Abdullah Al Salem District's Arts Gallery.

They also discussed a similar exhibition for Kuwaiti formative arts in East Germany. The exhibition is planned for early next year.

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WARRIAR**
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to India.
Inserted by the bereaved
family
and relatives

Tarnished constellation of stars

by Elora Shehabuddin

ATCHING *Saazish*, I was gripped by a sense of déjà vu every few minutes. I groped for the names of the handful of English movies which had been put together, piecemeal, in a

baphazard manner to create this star-studded 'thriller', in vain. The originals must have been mutilated beyond recognition.

Saazish is, basically, about a gang that fakes deaths in order to cash in on insurance policies. A fairly novel slant for the

Indian screen—or am I betraying my relatively limited experience in the field? The director Raj Kumar Kohli may have had good intentions but that's pure speculation on my part since there is little evidence. The story is complicated beyond normal human

comprehension as more and more characters are drawn in; they all just happen to know one another but no explanation or background is provided.

The cast shuttles between Bombay and Singapore with little warning, making it impossible to follow what's going on. I was at a loss to understand why Singapore was chosen; the only time any genuine use was made of the location was a backdrop for a song-and-dance sequence. But I'm fussy: I abhor redundancy.

Wearisome
Ah yes, the story. A summary is nigh impossible since all that sank in was a series of accidents where people die but don't die and, of course, the wearisome fight-dance-fight sequence. (All ye unbelievers out there, I suggest you find out for yourself. It will cost you three solid hours...)

Mithun Chakravorty is looking for his sister and Dimple Kapadia is looking for her brother's killer. They both pick up Raj Kumar, taking a fancy to one another on the way. Raj Kumar dies, his twin brother appears to claim the insurance money, but then someone conveniently pulls off his beard during a fight and, hey, we all discover that Raj Kumar was only pretending to be dead. Nonetheless, he is a good guy and goes through this rigmorle in order to exonerate himself and expose the real culprit.



Mithun warms up with a few dance steps before interrogating Anita Raj about his missing sister.

I think I should restrain myself at this point and not ruin what little suspense there is in the film by telling you who the mastermind is. You might even consider it insulting: a modicum of intelligence is all that's required to discover the identity of the mob leader. The makers of the film did not deem it necessary to include the cast in the credits. Perhaps they could not decide on the order of precedence. Alphabetical maybe? Fortunately, Raj Babbar, Mithun Chakravorty, Dimple Kapadia, Raj Kumar, Amrish

Puri, and Anita Raj have all been in enough magazines and, of course, films to render introductions unnecessary. *Saazish* possibly started off as a good idea but then got far too crowded: too many characters, too many plots and subplots...You're far better off playing Scrabble or Trivial Pursuit; they might go on for more than three hours but, at least, they won't dull your intellect.

The above film is available at Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya. Tel: 4712900.



Dimple Kapadia, Mithun Chakravorty, Vinod Mehra and Raj Babbar in *Saazish*: an Imbroglio at best

English

Morning
0600 Opening
0602 Songs and Music
0605 Science Journal
0630 News
0640 Songs and Music
0645 Daily Programme
0900 Songs and Music
0915 Writers and Their Works
0930 Radio Magazine Supplement
1000 Our Press Today
1005 Songs and Music
1100 Closedown
130 News on FM Service

Evening
2100 Opening
2102 Bits and Bytes
2130 News
2145 Point of View
2155 Songs and Music

2200 Facts About Zionism
2215 Magazine Special
2245 Daily Programme
2300 Fall Melt
2400 Closedown

BBC World Services

0600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio Newswatch
30 Religious Service
0100 News Summary followed by The Idea of Europe (ex 29th Another Hero of Those Times)
45 Without Strings
0200 World News
09 British Press
15 Peaches' Choice
30 Science in Action
0300 World News

RADIO PROGRAMMES

09 News about Britain
15 Good Books
30 Anything Goes
0400 Newswatch
30 Where Angels Fear to Tread
45 Reflections
50 Wayegate
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Nature Notebook
45 Recording of the Week
0600 Newswatch
30 The Sturges (ex 1st and 8th Film of the Book)
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 The Ken Bruce Show
1200 Radio Newswatch
15 Brain of Britain 1988
0800 World News

09 Reflections
15 Where Angels Fear to Tread
30 Anything Goes
0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Good Books
30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
45 Peaches' Choice
1000 News Summary followed by The Sturges (ex 1st and 8th Film of the Book)
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Health Matters (ex 8th and 29th Sportsworld)
30 The Ken Bruce Show
1200 Radio Newswatch
15 Brain of Britain 1988
0800 World News

45 Sports Roundup
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Anything Goes (ex 8th and 29th Recording of the Week)
45 (8th and 29th only) Sports-world
1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
45 The Third Policeman
1500 Radio Newswatch
15 The Sturges (ex 1st and 8th Film of the Book)
45 English Songsmiths (ex 1st Glyndebourne — The Early Years)
1600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 A Life at the UN (ex 22nd and 29th Whither Wisdom?)
30 The A-Z of Hollywood
45 The World Today
1700 World News
09 Commentary
15 Beethoven
45 Sports Roundup
1800 Newswatch
30 Multitrack 1: Top 20
1900 Outlook, opening with News Summary
39 Stock Market Report
45 Peaches' Choice

ALL TIMES GMT

Urdu

1900 Opening
1910 Behereen Qaul
1916 Programme Preview
1920 Songs
1925 Press Report
1940 Islamiyat: Daur-e-Hazir
2000 News
2020 Songs
2040 Hamare Mehaman
2100 Closedown

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum:
The museum will be open to the public every evening from 5 pm and from 9 am on Friday.
Islamic Arts Museum
The museum, located on Arab Gulf Street, is open from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm, Saturday to Thursday. A collection of the finest Islamic art objects are on show.
Tareq Rajab Museum
The museum in Jabriya houses a collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world. Summer timings are 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm, Sat. thru Thurs. On Friday the museum is open only in the mornings.

FILMS

British Council
Bugs Bunny takes off on a ridiculous romp through children's classics like Goldilocks, Jack and the Beanstalk, etc. in 1001 Rabbit Tales, showing on Aug 24, at 6:00 pm and on Aug 25, at 10:30 am.
The Assam Garden, the story of the relationship between a British and an Indian woman, stars Deborah Kerr and Madhur Jaffrey. It will be shown on Aug 27 and 28 at 6:30 pm. It is advisable to reserve seats in advance by telephoning the Library.

SOCIAL

Country Western Musical
The American Community Theatre is rounding up singers, dancers and musicians for their annual country and western musical, to be held at the end of September. Interested talents, contact Nancy Parker 2523911/ext. 2346 or Nola Anderson 2428366.

Y.M.C.A.
The Y.M.C.A. will present the "Come September Ball" at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel on Sept 1 at 8.30 pm. Highlights include the selection of the Queen of Queens. Top Ranks and Stepping Stones will be in attendance. For reservations, contact J. D'Sa at 2450279, 981790, 3924659.

Varca Sporting Centre
Varca Sporting Centre will organise an evening of games and entertainment at the Tent IAS on Sept 22, 1988. Music will be provided by Top Ranks and Next of Kin. Further details later.

Kuwait Malayalees
Kuwait Malayalees Onam Celebration Committee will celebrate Onam on Aug 26 from 9:00am onwards, at the Indian Embassy auditorium, with cultural programmes, competitions, and traditional Onasadya in Kerala style. For passes, please contact 2412986, 5629747, 3943662.

Onam festival
The Viswabharathi Theatres, Abhaya, will celebrate Onam on Aug 25 at the Indian Arts Circle. IAC President M. Mathews will be the chief patron. The programme comprises Onam songs, Mohiniyattam, classical dances, Thiruvathirakkali, folk dances, light music, one-act play, boat race and Kerala rural arts. Those interested in taking part contact Lazar Varghese — 4314511; Thomas Perumpilly — 4810490 ext. 207; Verghese Paradayil 2422973.

Indian Dance Drama
The Narthana dance group will stage a number of musical dance dramas, including Panchavadi, at the Indian Arts Circle on Sept 22.

HOTELS

At the Hilton
La Palma has introduced a new 12-day buffet cycle featuring Arab specialties; open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner, from 6.30 am to midnight.
At the Failaka restaurant, select from a wide variety of dishes to make your own table top buffet. The Magnetic Band provides live music in the evenings. Open every day 12.30 pm and 7.30-11.30 pm.
Ice-cream, cold drinks and this week's special — strawberry and chocolate cream — are available at La Patisserie. Open daily 10.30 am - 10.45 pm.

At the Sheraton
Enjoy Italian cuisine and live entertainment by the Sienna's Duo at the Riccardo restaurant. Riccardo's is closed on Fridays.

At the Hamra
The Hamra features authentic Lebanese cuisine every Sunday and seafood specialties on Wednesday nights; a sumptuous brunch buffet is offered on Fridays. Live entertainment is provided by the Lords.

The Hunt Room offers a variety of meat and fish preparations at lunch and dinner.

Arab world specialties are available every Thursday evening at Le Tabouche. A buffet lunch and dinner is offered on Fridays.

The Coffee Shop features a wide range of international cuisine and has a daily special.

At the Kuwait Plaza
The Al Dallah coffee shop offers buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as a set menu mini business lunch. Ice-cream festival at the International Food Arcade; light snacks also available; open 10:00 am to 11:00 pm.

Enjoy Turkish cuisine, a la carte, at the Bosphorus restaurant. Open for lunch and dinner every day except Saturday. The Marco Polo restaurant offers Italian food, live music and a candlelight atmosphere.

There is a Filipino Night every Sunday 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm; live entertainment provided.

At the Holiday Inn
Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop offers international buffet meals at lunch and dinner from 6 am to 1 am; a la carte also available. Fresh pastries and cakes can be bought every day at the Vienne Cafe. The Hanging Babylon Gardens are ideal for a period of quiet relaxation.

On Wednesday, join the Shahrhazad barbecue at the pool side; there will be games, prizes and surprises. On Thursday, enjoy music and food at the Arabian Night at the Al Andalus Supper club. Al Dana offers a special treat for children at the Friday brunch, open from 11 am to 3 pm.

Recreation facilities include squash and tennis courts, male/female gymnasiums with saunas, solaria, whirlpools, and massage and relaxation rooms.

At the Meridian
La Brasserie offers Friday brunch from 12 noon to 4 pm; also open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Beat the summer heat with cool juices offered in the lobby lounge; musical entertainment is provided in the evenings.

Mango promotion, featuring wide variety of mango preparations, until Aug 31.

At the Ramada
Al Bendera coffee shop offers continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner from 6 am to midnight; a la carte available. Shrimp promotion on Wednesday and Thursday, featuring a variety of shrimp delicacies.

Al Gandouf Grill Garden, open 7pm to midnight, features a selection of grilled specialties. The Open Garden has selection of teas, coffees, and juices; Arguilla water pipe available; videos shown on large screen every day. Open every day 7pm to 11pm.

Take away counter, open daily 4pm to 11pm, offers a selection of Arabic sandwiches

and snacks, plus fish and chips. Tea, coffee, juices, cakes and pastries are available at the Ramada Al Salam lobby lounge, open 10am to 11pm; ice-cream promotion daily.
On Thursday evenings, Le Mirage nightclub has a barbeque and full buffet; entertainment from Al Arzz band.
At Messilah Beach
Al Mubarakiyah restaurant, open 24 hours, offers buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as a variety of snacks.

SPORTS

IVth Winners Cup cricket tournament
The YMCA will hold the Al Kuwait Open IVth Winners Cup cricket tournament, beginning Sept 16. It will be played on Fridays and holidays at the Al Ahmadi Governorate Ground located behind the Computer Centre. Teams wishing to participate can contact Joe D'Sa, Tel: 3981790, 3-5 pm; 3924659, 5-8 pm. The draw will be held on Friday, Aug 26, at 9 am at the Kuwait Lanka Restaurant, Fahaeel.

Masters Bowling Tournament
The second Masters Tournament, open to both men and women, will be held on Aug 25-26 and Sept 1-2 at 300 Silver Tower (behind US embassy). The deadline for registration is Aug 23. For particulars, please contact Sarah Macarimbang 4843447.

Salcette United
The Salcette United Sports Centre will hold their third annual Gold Cup Football Tournament starting Sept 9. Those interested may contact Peter 2434415 or Mariano 4744150 after 5 pm, before Sept 1. The draw will be held on Sept 2, at 9 am, at the Phoenix hotel.

Boy's Own Club
Boy's Own Club will organise a seven-a-side one-day football festival on the holiday declared to mark the Prophet's birthday (Oct 22/23). Interested teams can contact Milagres 3967446 or Joe D'Souza 4813622.

Kuwait Nomads
Training will continue this week on Tuesday at a new venue. Please meet at the grounds in Fintas by 7:15 pm.

* All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shawaiikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

CINEMA TODAY



Robert De Niro stars in *The Deer Hunter*, which examines the mindless horrors of the Vietnam war without the customary political rhetoric found in other films.

Al Andalus
Action Jackson
Al Sahmiya
Who's That Girl?
Starring: Madonna
Al Hamra
Asdeka Al Shaitan
Starring: Noor Al Sharif and Madiha Hamdi
Drive-In
Al Ab Al Sharei
Starring: Nadya Lutfi and Mohammed Yassin
Al Firdous
Chor Ka Bhai Chor (Hindi)
Starring: Vishnu Vardhan and Vijayalalita

Fahaeel Open-Air
Ram Tere Kitne Naam (Hindi)
Al Fahaeel
Hell Camp
Al Jahra
Frisco King

Granada
The Deer Hunter
Starring: Robert De Niro, Christopher Walken, Meryl Streep, John Cazale and John Savage
Salaibikhat
Le Gendarme St. Marie
Al Jleeb
Akash Pari (Bengali)
Ahmedi Drive-In
Secret Admirer
Starring: Thomas Howell, Lori Loughlin and Cliff de Young

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.57
Zuhr	11.51
Asr	3.25 pm
Maghreb	6.20
Isha	7.42

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9:00 Holy Quran
9:30 Space Adventures
10:15 Ibn Al Jabal
11:15 Ala Duniya Al Salam
12:15 Cultural film
1:00 News
1:05 World today via satellite
1:30 Summer clubs
2:00 Variety show
2:30 Al Ajniha
3:35 Cartoons
4:15 Denmark vs. Spain: 1986 World Cup
6:00 Children's programme
6:45 Variety show
7:10 Al Wan: cultural programme
7:50 Science and the Holy Quran
8:30 Wa Qalat Al Arab
9:00 News in Arabic
9:45 Al Saqiya Tadour
10:45 Arabic feature film: "Al Emlak" starring Fared Shawki, Mariam Fakhri Al Din, Emad Hamdi and Mahmoud Al Malig.
12:00 News Summary
12:05 World today via satellite; Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6:00 Holy Quran
6:10 Galtar
6:30 The Craft of the Weaver: "Fibre and Frame". A look at the spinning-wheel, the frame loom and a grinseng from Bah.
7:00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world news and regional events.
7:30 The Duck Factory: "Children's Half Hour"
8:00 News in English
8:30 Miami Vice: "Lombard". The squad goes after a not-so-scrupulous businessman.
9:30 Private Benjamin: "Judy undercover". Judy helps a friend who is being blackmailed by a soldier who lent her some money.
10:00 Hitchcock: "Houdini on Channel 4"
10:30 The Equalizer: "Shadow Play"
11:30 News summary: Magazine d'Actualite Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.



Hitchcock presents 'Houdini on Channel Four' at 10:00 pm.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Ghanim Pharmacy
Fahad Al Salem St.
nr. Carlton Hotel
Al Mutawa Pharmacy
Al Hilal St., Al Awqaf Bldg.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Ribah Pharmacy
Tunis St., Al Ribah Complex

Salmiya and Rumeithiya
Al Raed Pharmacy
Amman St., Rumeithiya
Fahaeel and Ahmadi
Burqan Pharmacy
Sabah Souk, Fahaeel
Kheitan
Kheitan Pharmacy
Ibrahim Bin Adham St.
Jahra
Al Khaled Pharmacy
Opp. Jahra Co-op. Society

Reliance Petrochemicals Ltd.

The investors' conference will now be held at the Kuwait Sheraton on Wednesday 24th of August, 1988 at 7.00 pm.

Invitation cards received by Reliance shareholders for the earlier conference should be presented for entry.

Inconvenience caused is regretted.

Mr P.M. Rao, Reliance representative, will be available at the Kuwait Sheraton from 23rd afternoon to 25th evening and will attend to all your personal queries.

Teachers of EFL required

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE CENTRES LTD., in association with MASS CONSULTANTS AND SERVICES WLL, have vacancies for full-time EFL teachers from 1 September 1988.

Native-speakers University graduates, with the ISA Prop. Cert. in TEFL and at least two years' relevant TEFL experience are invited to telephone the ILC Representative, Mr Chris Muloney, on 242-3675 or 241-0351 (office) or 371-7852 (residence).

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

Enough is enough and too much spoils — Italian proverb.

Peace in the Gulf

A blow to French defence industry

By John Phillips

PARIS, (UPI): The prospect of peace between Iran and Iraq is a severe blow for the French defence industry, which reaps billions of dollars as Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's principal Western supplier of arms, industry sources say.

During its long war with Iran, Iraq notched up debt worth some \$3 billion for French weapons, according to official sources. France ranks second only to the Soviet Union in the export of weapons to the Baghdad government.

Iran's announcement July 13 that it was ready to accept a ceasefire with its Gulf foe was a "black Monday for the gun merchants," said the left wing French newspaper Liberation.

A front-page cartoon in Le Monde newspaper showed an arms dealer holding a cluster of missiles bursting into tears on the edge of a battlefield littered with corpses.

Weapons
Since the Gulf war started in 1980, France supplied Iraqi purchasers with a constellation of high-technology weapons, especially aircraft, missiles, helicopters and heavy artillery. These included:

- More than 100 Mirage F-1 warplanes supplied by the Dassault Corporation.
- Some 100 Alouette III, Gazelle, Super Frelon and Puma helicopter gunships.
- An order for 85 of the latest 155mm AU-F1 CGT howitzers capable of firing six rounds per minute.

- Franco-German-made Milan anti-tank missiles, 60 Roland all-weather anti-aircraft missile systems supplied by the Aviation Corporation Aerospatiale, and a huge number of shells.

For numerically inferior Iraq, sophisticated French technology was crucial during the conflict.

For example, French-made Exocet — missiles like the one that hit the USS Stark May 17, 1987 killing 37 crewmen — helped transform the war in 1984.

Chile moves towards amnesty for killers

By Tom Harvey

SANTIAGO, (UPI): Broad outline is emerging among opposition parties and human rights groups for an amnesty for alleged military and police killings and torture if a forthcoming plebiscite ends nearly 15 years of rule by Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

Quiet meetings have been held to discuss what to do about human rights violations as part of a "national reconciliation." The opposition recognises an amnesty may be the military's price for a peaceful transition to civilian government if the ruling junta's candidate is defeated in the plebiscite, probably in October.

A "yes" vote means Chile will have a military president for eight more years — and Pinochet is the junta's most likely choice as sole candidate. A negative vote would lead to an open election in about a year which the opposition could win.

Human rights groups charge the military and national police have killed thousands of people since Pinochet assumed the presidency after a 1973 coup. Most victims were supporters of socialist Salvador Allende, who died in the coup.

Tortured
They also have documented hundreds of cases of prisoners who say they were tortured as part of the military's effort to destroy the leftist movement.

Now, however, from speeches and interviews has come the broad outline of a possible deal, involving full investigation and public airing of the killing and torture allegations but an amnesty of some sort for those implicated.

Gutenberg Martinez, secretary-general of the Christian Democrat Party, the largest opposition party and the traditional centre of Chilean politics, said in an interview the first step "is to establish the truth."

"The second is reconciliation — not living in the past."

"There is going to be an equilibrium," he said.

They enabled Iraqi pilots to prey on ships carrying Iranian crude oil out of the Gulf — the "tanker war" — with devastating effect.

Arms dealers from the United States have not tried to compete with France on the Iraqi market. The pro-Israeli lobby's strength in Congress made sales of American weaponry to Iraq unthinkable.

Successive French governments, however, have been untouchable.

Like the Soviet Union and Britain, France maintains a military mission in Baghdad. French technicians provide training and maintenance. A handful of former French Army officers work as advisers to the Iraqi chief of staff, Field Marshal Nizar Abdul-Karim Al-Khazraji.

France's position in the Iraqi market was not only hugely profitable for the merchants who flooded into Baghdad's luxury, French-built Meridien Hotel. It also gave French companies a chance to test new weapons in a country at war.

Test
This year Aerospatiale, with the help of French Air Force technicians, reportedly was able to test its new laser-guided AS-30 missile on the Iraqi front.

In 1986 11 French soldiers were injured in an accident 60 miles west of Baghdad during tests on the F-1 howitzer.

French governments long have encouraged selling weapons abroad. More than a quarter of a million voters work in the French defence industry. Even the leftist French labour unions are reluctant to criticise government policy.

British military expert Anthony Sampson, in a 1977 book, "The Arms Bazaar," said that "among the Europeans, the French have stood out over the past two decades as the most aggressive and successful exporters of arms, catching up and perhaps overtaking the British in their time-honoured contest."

Chile moves towards amnesty for killers

"What has occurred necessitates that justice is done... that the truth is known," said Ricardo Lagos, the leader of another main opposition party, the Party for Democracy.

"When the truth is known, there can be conversations over themes of reconciliation."

The Socialist Party, to the left of Lagos' Party, does not reject a deal with the military outright. But leaders said they believe some military officials could be brought before courts.

Meetings

Gonzalo Taborga Molina, international secretary for the Chilean Commission of Human Rights, revealed two private, unpublished meetings on Oct 11-12 on the issue.

"We only wanted to talk and not to arrive at conclusions or agreements," he said. "We wanted to exchange ideas over the distinct positions that the political parties have over human rights in Chile."

He said the meetings did not "exactly" touch on the theme of amnesty, "but how justice can be achieved in Chile — that was the general theme."

Taborga, a socialist who was imprisoned after the coup, said similar discussions had been held with the legal community, other Chilean organisations and with international human rights lawyers.

"The crimes of the military and civilian judges (who failed to intervene) have to be known," he said. "Chile has to cry."

Then, "if there is justice, reconciliation is going to be possible," he said.

Power

What is not known is whether Pinochet will be willing to leave power should the "no" vote win in the plebiscite.

A source familiar with Pinochet said he fears the "judgement of the people" and does not want to give up power and the mantle of protection provided by the military. Lagos has said he finds it difficult to believe Pinochet would leave power after 15 years.

Caught amid a five-year conflict in Sudan

Southern civilians bear the brunt of civil war

By Robert M. Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan: When rebels entered James' village last year in southern Sudan, they took cattle, clothes, they took boys to be SPLA," he says, referring to the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army.

Later, when the Sudanese military came to his village looking for SPLA rebels, they took some men away, and they killed some old men. They said: "You are feeding SPLA."

Last November, seeking food and security, the family fled to the government-held town of Yei, not far from their southern village. But food relief deliveries there have been erratic because of the fighting. Now, he says, travellers coming to Khartoum and letters from his parents say

they are suffering from hunger in Yei. James can barely feed himself on a low-paying job he managed to find here.

Caught amid a five-year civil conflict, Sudan's southern civilians "are bearing the brunt of the war," says Cole Dodge, a representative in Sudan for UNICEF.

Violation

Sudan ranks No. 5 on a list of countries with the most internally displaced — people who have fled their homes, but still live within the country — according to a report prepared by the US Committee on Refugees, a private group in Washington.

The "consequences of the war" on civilians amount to a violation of basic "human rights," claims Suleyman Baldo, a lecturer at the University of

Khartoum. Among the "rights," he says, many civilians have lost are the rights to food, basic health and education services, and safety.

Interviews with recent arrivals from the south, and with private Sudanese and Western analysts, indicate that people who leave the south looking for safety find danger — both along the trek north and once they arrive in a new city.

Often they leave their villages because the economy and local government have broken down, education has all but stopped, and drought has left them without food, says Baldo.

The largest number of people fleeing come from the Dinka tribe, which is the most prominent in the SPLA rebel movement. Western and Sudanese sources

say that a way of life is disappearing for these proud and independent pastoralists. Close family ties, with economic and social activities tied to their cattle, are being replaced by a life as urban "refugees" in their own country, with many family members either dead or scattered.

Raids

Along the route north there is little food or water, and many people starve to death or arrive at their destination emaciated. Additionally, in some regions, local tribes are reportedly attacking those trekking north, stealing cattle, and sometimes kidnapping and enslaving people. There are reports that some travellers are selling their children to local tribes in the hope that the children will be fed and that they will

be able to return for them later.

A government policy of arming the tribal enemies of the Dinka's, a non-Arab African tribe, has given local tribes an "upper hand" in cattle raids against the Dinka in their traditional areas. This has resulted in many deaths and caused many Dinka to run away, says Jukeria Want, adviser to the general secretary of the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC).

To survive the trek north, women stop in villages along the way to weave baskets, for which they can earn about 25 cents a day. Sometimes they work on farms in exchange for a little food and no pay, sleeping wherever they can. After walking, or paying for truck rides, if they can afford it, many individuals and families reach a rail line and catch

a train to Khartoum, the capital. If not crammed into steamy hot cars with little food or water, they ride free — and perilously — on the roof.

Fall

Kuac Kook, who rode the last four days of his long trip here atop a train with his family in May, says, "I saw some children fall off in their sleep."

Kook's trek has brought him to makeshift shelter in a settlement of hundreds of small, dome-shaped huts covered with flattened cardboard boxes and burlap. Settlements such as this one, outside Khartoum's adjacent city of Omdurman, have become home to more than 1 million of Sudan's more than 2 million displaced.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.



Death of Zia in plane crash

By Simon Tisdall

A FINGER of suspicion was being pointed at the Pakistani Army as investigators searched the wreckage of President Zia-ul-Haq's C-130 Hercules which crashed on Wednesday, killing all on board.

While the possibility of an accident was not ruled out, assassination was the most favoured theory. In Islamabad, senior government officials pointed firmly to sabotage as the cause of the crash, perhaps by an onboard bomb or ground-launched missile. "We all think that there was some mischief there," one said. "All the circumstantial evidence points in that direction."

Amid many conspiracy theories concerning unnamed "foreign powers" and political fanatics, analysts pointed out that until crucial questions about the circumstances of Zia's death were answered, the hunt for possible assassins must start with the military.

Precautions
Zia never travelled without the most stringent security precautions. For these, he relied heavily on the Army. Not just for the sake of the company, the technicians who maintained and serviced his planes travelled with him on board.

Overseeing such arrangements, among others, was the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) — renowned for its vigilance, not least since an attempted assassination in 1981.

On Wednesday, Zia was moving from one heavily-guarded military base — near Bahawalpur — to another, at Rawalpindi. More important still, his trip was unannounced. It involved a secret viewing of the American M-1 battle tank.

Analysts said that while it was difficult to believe that Khad, the Afghan secret service, or other outsiders, could have known enough about his movements in time to position a bomb or a missile-launcher, it was much more possible that disaffected members of the intelligence services or the Army may have got wind of his plans.

Suspensions

The context for such suspicions is a history of conspiracies within the Pakistani Army. Because Zia was so ruthless in undermining potential rivals, he may have run out of senior officers in whom he could place absolute trust.

Finger of suspicion pointed at Army

Below him and his most senior men stood a divided officer corps, many sympathetic to the Bhuttos and the PPP, many Western-educated and opposed to his Islamic ways, a source suggested. Many in the Army were said to resent Zia's Afghan entanglements, despite the American largesse which was its reward.

The unexplained blowing-up of the Ojheri arms depot near Islamabad in April was seen as a humiliation. The destabilising impact of three million Afghan refugees and Zia's remote, uncommunicative but unyielding leadership was another cause of discontent.

Unless the Pakistani investigators, who hope to have completed their search of the crash site within one or two days, come up with conclusive evidence, theories about who was responsible for the President's death are likely to abound. There are numerous other candidates for culpability.

Blamed

Suspicion has already been thrown on the most obvious party — the Afghan Government and its secret service, Khad. The Soviet-backed Kabul regime is blamed by Pakistan for a long series of clandestine cross-border operations against mujahedeen targets, including assassinations. Kabul has regularly and fiercely denounced Zia's continuing active support for the mujahedeen despite this year's Geneva accords on a Soviet withdrawal.

The Soviet Union itself does not escape suspicion either. Relations between the two countries had deteriorated sharply in recent months.

At the Moscow superpower summit, Gorbachev angrily accused Zia of trying to "scuttle" the Geneva accords. On August 8, the Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, warned Pakistan of "serious consequences" if it did not cut aid to the guerrillas. Moscow sent its condolences on Thursday.

The India of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had its own difficulties with Zia, on top of the two countries' historical enmity. The Indian government was quick to deny as "preposterous"

oblique suggestions that a missile may have been fired at Zia's plane from the area around the Indian border. But this week, Rajiv warned Pakistan of the dangers of fuelling Sikh separatism in Punjab.

In May, the Afghan leader, Najibullah, paid a much-publicised visit to the Indian capital. The message was that the Indian government, like its Soviet ally, had an interest in a swift, non-fundamentalist settlement to the north. Rajiv did not attend the funeral.

The hunt for assassins must also look to the heavily-armed political internal opponents of Zia, to the enemies of his American alliance, perhaps to extremist supporters of the Bhutto cause. Amid so many elaborate assassination theories it may simply be that the Army which made Zia a general and then a president also finally destroyed him.

Courtesy: The Guardian

Parents selling their children

By Robert M. Press

OMDURMAN, Sudan: Parents fleeing war and famine in southern Sudan are increasingly selling their children into slavery to hostile tribes along the way, various Sudanese and foreign sources say.

Last February, children were being sold for about \$100 each, according to the London-based Anti-Slavery Society for the Protection of Human Rights. By April, the price fell to about \$17 because more families were fleeing and thus more children were available, says Alan Whittaker, spokesman for the Society, which just completed a study of Sudan.

Parents usually sell their chil-

dren to keep them from starving to death and to obtain money to continue the family's trip northward in search of security, says Suleyman Baldo, a university lecturer who has researched slavery here.

Baldo says that most parents are not likely to have the money or the courage to return to the buyers. And if they do, says Whittaker, they find the price has doubled.

Sold

In a report presented to the United Nations Aug 1, the Anti-Slavery Society says that children as young as seven are being sold into slavery in Sudan.

There is no way to measure the number of people who have been enslaved. But based on accounts,

"the scale of slavery in Sudan has grown," says Ezekiel Kutjok, secretary general of the Sudan Council of Churches. But the real problem, he contends, "is that we don't see the government recognizing the problem."

Sudan's attorney general, Hassan Al-Turabi, acknowledges that some people have been "enslaved" while trying to escape the war.

In an interview with The Monitor, Sudanese Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi referred to the allegations of slavery as "incidents that happen between tribes," and said that the Western media was paying too much attention to these incidents. The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

Artists immortalise uprising victims

By Gail Fitzer

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): Palestinian and Israeli artists have joined forces in a special exhibition to preserve as symbols of a national struggle the faces of Arabs killed in an anti-Israeli uprising.

The 100 portraits displayed at East Jerusalem's Hakawati Theatre demonstrate that the eight-month-old revolt against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has become a way of life.

Artists and visitors said the works by 25 Palestinians and eight Israelis showed that the intifada, or Palestinian uprising, involved more than violent protests. More than 250 Palestinians and four Israelis have died in the unrest.

"It's not only throwing stones. It's also different things in our lives. Part of this is the culture and part of the culture is this art," said Tayseer Baktat, 29, a painter from the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza where the revolt began.

Baktat, who painted the first Palestinian killed in the revolt, said: "We made this exhibition because we feel these people inside and we want them inside

for a long time to remember what is happening."

Painter Hanna Kokaly, who lived and studied in West Germany for 10 years, returned to his native Beit Sahour in the West Bank after reading news reports that a 17-year-old family friend was killed by a stone block that fell from a building.

Palestinians said soldiers dropped the block from the rooftop, but the Army asserted a wall of the building was crumbling.

In Kokaly's painting, the teenager is shown beside the broken stone. Flames symbolising his blood engulf a Jewish Star of David carved in the stone. Green, white and red — colours in the Palestinian flag — dominate the work.

"I couldn't understand the way he was killed. Twelve days they were under curfew and in the two hours they allowed residents out, he was killed," Kokaly, 29, told Reuters.

"I made it for the family to tell them it is not a loss of the child. They didn't lose their child. He didn't die for nothing," he said.

Most of the works are simple portraits to be given to the families of the dead protesters.

Only a handful reflect political symbolism, and most of these are

contributions of the eight Israeli artists.

One, by Israeli artist Arnon Ben-David, is an ink drawing of a Palestinian on a red background painted over a Hebrew newspaper. Israeli newspapers have published extensive reports daily on the uprising since it erupted last December.

Palestinian artist Nader Hadweh of Beit Jallah displayed ink drawings of six Palestinians killed from his town and surrounding areas.

Hadweh, 37, told Reuters: "This is a way to speak to people. When they see this exhibit, they ask, 'Why were all these people killed, because they threw stones or struggled for their freedom?'"

Raouf Malki, a 30-year-old Palestinian architect from Ramallah who attended the exhibit, said:

"It shows that everyone is participating in one way or another in the uprising and it is important that everyone sees in the action of the martyrs, in their work, everything they did for us, for our people."

The exhibit, which opened on Saturday night, runs for eight days. Organisers said there would soon be another to honour the more than 150 other Palestinians killed in the revolt.

Beg catapulted into powerful military post

ISLAMABAD, (Reuters): The suspected assassination of President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq catapulted General Mirza Aslam Beg unexpectedly into Pakistan's most powerful military post.

The 57-year-old professional soldier was promoted, within hours of Zia's death in a plane crash, to Chief of the Army Staff, traditionally the country's most powerful military post.

Zia held the post when he ousted civilian Prime Minister Zul-

fikar Ali Bhutto in 1977. He clung to it in addition to the presidency throughout his 11-year rule, defying the three-year statutory limit and opposition demands for his resignation.

Zia had said he would not relinquish the Army post until 1990. So Beg, appointed Vice-Chief of Army Staff in 1987, would not normally have succeeded his chief because he would have already completed his three-year tenure and would have been retired from the armed forces at age 60.

Ambitions

Beg, who was born in Allahabad, India, before partition, has a reputation among his fellow officers and diplomats as a straightforward military man with no political ambitions.

He does not belong to the Punjabi clique that has run the Army, and, as a strictly professional soldier, is not itching to take over the country.

"He is just a professional soldier," a former Army officer said.

Some Pakistani commentators with long memories recall that the same was widely said about Zia before he seized power.

Beg made the same trip to Bahawalpur in central Punjab last Wednesday during which Zia died. But he left in a different plane.

Newspaper reports say he turned back when he lost contact with the president's plane, saw the smoke of the crash and raised the alarm. Pakistani officials believe the plane was shot down by a missile or sabotaged by a bomb.

Beg returned to Islamabad and was promoted on Wednesday evening by acting President



General Aslam Beg

Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

He was the obvious choice for the post on Zia's death and his appointment met a long-standing opposition demand for a full-time Army Chief.

Critics accused Zia of tarnishing the military's image by a prolonged involvement in politics and his insistence on remaining in uniform while also calling himself an "elected" president after a controversial 1984 referendum.

Beg inherits command of a 450,000-man Army, deployed mainly along the long border with India.

Commissioned

Beg was commissioned in an infantry regiment in 1952 at the age of 21 and also served with the Commando Special Services Group for four years.

He undertook his first combat assignment in 1962 during an Army action against Pashtun tribal dissidents in a North West Frontier Province border district.

He had command experience also of an infantry brigade, an infantry division and corps before replacing a retiring Zia confidant, General Khalid Mahmud Arif, as the vice-chief of Army Staff in 1987.

Handwritten signature or text at the bottom of the page.

by Julia Orange

Double trouble

Identical twins have the same genetic predisposition towards certain illnesses, but what is becoming increasingly clear is that such closeness can be a source of intense pain, particularly when one twin dies.

millan — speaks with some authority. Her own identical twin died when she was three. Losing her twin led to a kind of agoraphobia, and for a while she refused to leave home. Her isolation was eventually cured by her far-sighted mother, who took her to a psychotherapist who she remembers had lots of nice toys and asked a lot of rude questions, and whose sensible advice was that she should start school as soon as possible.

Spell

School broke the bad spell but the loss of her twin affected her so deeply that as a therapist she wanted to find out if her experiences were unusual. In 1986 she embarked on a study of bereaved twins, and while interviewing 200 of them she found in some "quite appalling levels of pain and distress."

She found identical twins felt the loss most keenly, particularly twins of the same sex. One man in his forties said that when his twin brother died at 19, he felt at first quite unable to go on living. "His death was like watching myself die."

If a twin is lost early in life, the surviving twin is often brought up in the ambivalent atmosphere of a home where parents mourn a death and celebrate a new life simultaneously. Some twins, particularly women, felt (and one or two claimed to have been told by their parents) that the wrong twin had died.

Rejection

The worst form of parental rejection occurred when a twin felt she was to blame for the other twin's death. One was told by her mother: "You took all the food."

Another woman recalled

that her mother told her during a fearsome family row that she was a twin and that she had caused the other twin to be dismembered before birth. The child asked her school teacher the next day what the word meant. Not surprisingly, at the age of 13, she made a suicide attempt.

Some twins frankly admitted that after the death of their twin they had felt a flash of relief and of freedom from the burden of twinning. "I suddenly realised," said one. "I would no longer be described as 'the boy'."

If there is a solution to unravelling such intense and entangled relationships, Woodward believes it lies in talking it out with other people who have suffered similar experiences. She applauds the pioneering work being done by Dr Elizabeth Bryan at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, where special bereavement clinics have recently been set up. Here mothers and twins can discuss feelings informally and get professional advice.

For the Floyd twins, the only pain is having hysterics a day before their stitches come out. Soon they will go back to jobs, hundreds of miles apart and, "No I won't miss him at all," Jason said. "... not much."



Partners in pain: twins Jonathan and Jason Floyd recovering from twin bouts of appendicitis

Identical

Quite why it is that some twins, usually identical rather than fraternal, exhibit extraordinary, almost supernaturally tacit one-ness is a mystery medical science is still trying to solve. (Identical twins are formed when a normal fertilised ovum divides into two and each half becomes a separate individual. Fraternal twins are formed from two eggs fertilised by two sperms and frequently look no more alike than brothers and sisters.)

Identicals have the same genetic predisposition towards certain illnesses. But what is becoming increasingly clear, according to psychotherapist Joan Woodward, herself an identical twin, is that such closeness can be a source of intense pain, particularly when one twin dies.

Woodward — whose book *Understanding Ourselves* was recently published by Mac-

The Little Emperor problem of China

By Louise Branson

THE Chinese call them the Little Emperors — Xiao Huang Di. They are China's new generation of spoiled only-children now in their early teens and under, the result of an enforced one-family, one-child policy introduced in the mid-70s. So pampered is this emerging brat pack that sociologists are beginning to contemplate a China in the early 21st century full of selfish and dictatorial young adults.

A small friend of mine, Little Wei, is typical. He is cute and he knows it. He is the centre of doting attention from parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents. Most of his parents' £35-a-month salary is spent on him. If Little Wei hankers after sugared fruits, dear Little Wei gets sugared fruits. A fancy toy? The relatives chip in. Indeed, Little Wei's birthdays are the family's biggest and costliest annual celebration. "He is only seven but he knows he rules this family," said his mother. "When he doesn't get something he throws a tantrum and I'm afraid we indulge him even though we shouldn't."

Dilemma

Beijing one-child policy poses a painful dilemma. Without it, China's 1.2 billion population, 65 per cent of it under the age of 30, would quickly double, something that would put an unbearable strain on the country's food resources. The social cost of this policy is something one can only speculate about, though a newly published study of only-children in Shenyang, north of Beijing, gives some idea of its dimensions. The study found that 95 per cent of only-children "had not developed soundly". Of them, about 19 per cent told lies or used abusive language, 23 per cent were self-willed, 29 per cent were particular about their food, 31 per cent had the habit of sucking their thumb and 63 per cent had dental diseases from eating so many sweets. This may sound normal for Western children, but in China children have traditionally been brought up to defer to their parents and be extremely obedient.

Beijing's one-child policy introduced in the 70's to control the population problem has produced a new generation of spoilt children. So pampered is this emerging brat pack that sociologists are beginning to contemplate a China in the early 21st century, full of selfish and dictatorial young adults.



A young member of China's brat pack.

Still, the government has opted for potential social difficulties over economic misery, trying to cope with the Little Emperor problem through frequent cautionary stories in the press. One of the most extreme, earlier, this year, involved a nine-year-old who was so outraged by his parents' refusal to give him extra sweets that he went into his bedroom and hanged himself. Another story was told by a holiday camp counsellor who found a father sleeping on the floor beside his son's bed. The father had been afraid his son would not be able to find his way in different surroundings and without his help.

Apart from the wide press debate, however, Chinese society seems at a loss to know

how to cope with a phenomenon that flies in the face of its most basic traditions. Chinese families have always been large. The Chinese language even has a different name to differentiate each child's place in the rigid family hierarchy — first older brother, second younger sister, and so on. Traditionally, a great number of children, particularly sons, was seen as proof of the family's standing and it guaranteed the continuity of ancestor-worshipping customs.

Of course, there are families that succeed in getting around the one-child policy, particularly in the countryside where two children are now tolerated as a concession to farmers who need the extra help. But in the crowded towns, it is

more difficult. A couple has to seek permission from their watchful "danwei" (unit) to have a child — without it abortions are often forced, even at a late stage.

The greatest anguish comes when a couple has a daughter. Girls have always been seen as almost valueless since they do not carry on the family name and once they are married, they are considered part of their husband's family. Abortion is available on request and in the early 1980s, in Anshan, a hospital discontinued a special experiment in determining the sex of a child after 30 babies were aborted at the parents' request: 29 sets of those parents had been told they had a girl. And sad to say, just as in past centuries, there are still many cases of couples killing girl babies. Statistics bear out this phenomenon. In general, women live longer than men and throughout the world, more girls than boys are born, but according to the 1982 census, China had 30m more males than females.

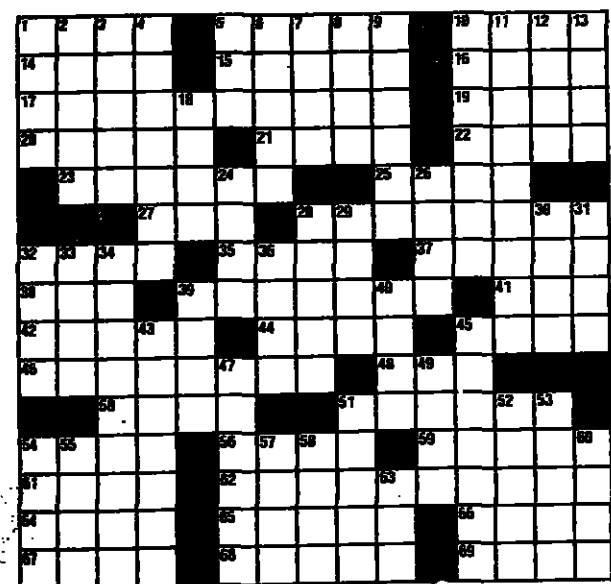
Exceptions

Despite the many exceptions to the one-child rule, Chinese officials say they still hope to keep the population at about 1.2 billion into the middle of next century, by which time India may surpass China as the world's most populous nation.

But by that time, will China be run by rude, selfish and dictatorial adults? Who knows. For now, the acuteness of the behavioural time-bomb is perhaps best illustrated by one of the very few Chinese social jokes. Two grandfathers are discussing their Little Emperor grandchildren. "My grandson threw a tantrum and won't speak to me because I didn't bring him a toy yesterday," said one.

"Oh, I'm in even worse trouble because I got upset with my grandson and, to show my anger, I spanked the chair he normally sits on. He sent me to stand in a corner for two hours," said the second grandfather. "Has he calmed down now?" asked the first grandfather. "I don't know," replied the second, "he's taken away my visiting rights for six months."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Mardi —
 - Orate
 - Acids
 - Musical stop
 - Short and sweet
 - Medal winner
 - Highway, of a sort
 - After a while
 - American inventor
 - "His Eye — the Sparrow"
 - Early evening telecast
 - Hemingway
 - "We Got Fun"
 - Conn. zone in August
 - Went riding
 - Ado
 - Imported cheese
 - Razor attachment
 - Author Deighton
 - Spring from
 - Food container
 - Soviet cooperative
 - Curtain fabric
 - European native
 - Churchmen
 - Mauna —
 - Heredity factor
 - Excuses
 - Composer Alban
 - Minute amount
 - Underwater detection device
 - Jai
 - Give thought to
 - Ceremony
 - Minneapolis suburb
 - Writer Bagnold
- DOWN**
- Network
 - Jeanmarie of the ballet
 - Star flower
 - More severe
 - Aves
 - point
 - Memorable years
 - Concerning
 - Ed Wynn's offspring
 - TV station
 - Pierce
 - "...all in —"
 - Junior et al.
 - Clarinet need
 - Bud holder
 - "Let —"
 - Walking sticks
 - "— and a Woman": 1966
 - film
 - Prepare for the press
 - Fender bender
 - His
 - Land poss.
 - Unité
 - Valley
 - Verve
 - Passage
 - Songs of lament
 - Toiled
 - Farm aid
 - River to the Seine
 - acid
 - Banal
 - Formal fabric
 - Shakespeare, e.g.
 - Nobelists
 - Wesley
 - Make over
 - Perched
 - Bright shades
 - Restrain

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

RIANT PAPA GARB
AMIE OPERA OMAR
GOLDLOCKS LIKE
FIRE DARK SADDEN
GENT MIND
SECOND RESTING
OPAL MELT GORE
ACID SAVES GRAY
PONE TREE ESTE
TENDRILL SPREAD
GAIN TOES
REBORN AIRE CAT
AILED GOLDENRULE
MISS SIDES ARES
PETE LAST MESS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
LIKE A BOY SCOUT, BE PREPARED

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ A 7 5
♥ K Q 5
♦ 10 6 2
♣ 7 6 3 2

WEST
♠ J 2
♥ J 10 6 2
♦ A K J 8
♣ Q J 10

EAST
♠ Q 9 6 3
♥ 3
♦ Q 9 7 5 4 3
♣ 9 5

SOUTH
♠ K 10 8 4
♥ A 9 8 7 4
♦ Void
♣ A K 8 4

The bidding:

South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

We have often remarked on how well pessimists fare at the bridge table. Here is another hand to prove our point.

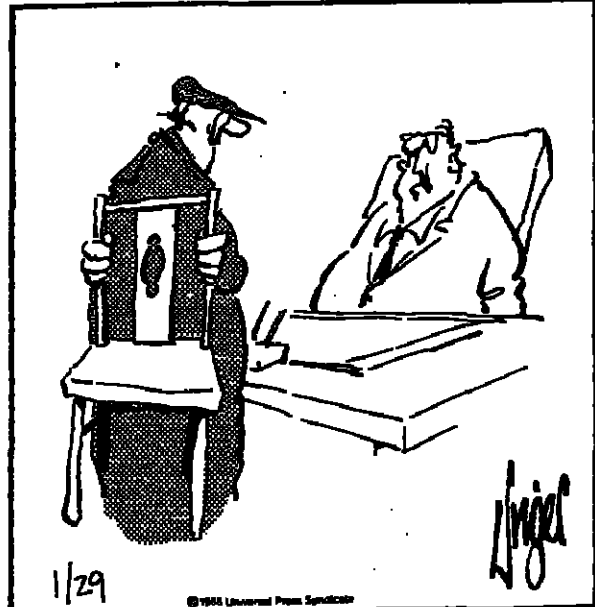
South's opening bid of two hearts showed a hand of 11-16 points with specifically four spades and five hearts. North decided that his key cards in partner's suits made his hand worth a jump to game.

When this hand was dealt in a

pair tournament, most declarers at four hearts ruffed the opening diamond lead and drew two rounds of trumps with the king-queen. When the 4-1 trump break was revealed, it was too late to recover. They tried to counter by playing off ace, king and another club, but when they were forced again with a diamond they had lost control of the hand and could not come to more than nine tricks.

The only declarer to make his contract was M.F. Tai, of Taiwan. He ruffed the opening lead, cashed the ace-king of clubs and, when both went through, 10 tricks were virtually assured. After cashing the ace and king of hearts, he ruffed another diamond. Next came the king-ace of spades, followed by another diamond ruff. In all, declarer scored two tricks in each black suit, three ruffs and three hearts.

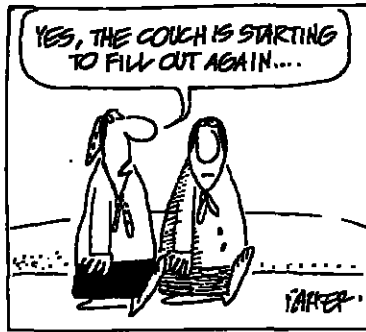
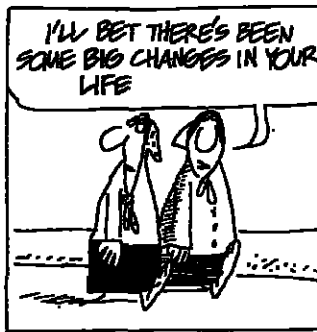
This technique is known as a dummy reversal. Usually, dummy's trumps are used to extract all of the opponents' fangs. However, as this hand illustrates, it can succeed even when a defender has longer trumps than dummy. Dummy reversals crop up fairly often, and is a technique worth mastering.



"You never heard the expression, 'take a seat' before?"

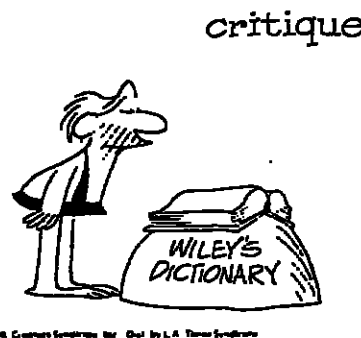
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

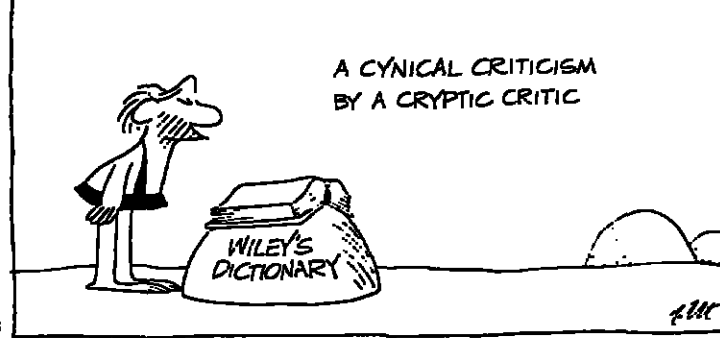


B.C.

By Johnny Hart



critique



A CYNICAL CRITICISM BY A CRYPTIC CRITIC

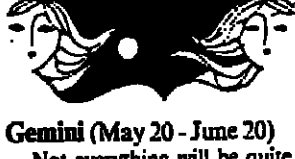
YOUR STARS



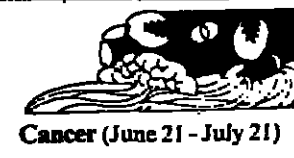
Aries (March 20 - April 18)
You will be able to make your own best bet. You should make sure you do not overrule yourself. Indeed all kinds of exaggeration are to be avoided. Do your utmost not to make a nuisance of yourself. Be moderate.



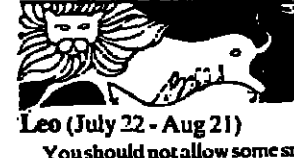
Taurus (April 19 - May 19)
You will have the determination that is needed to deal with the situation. You should not make up your mind on the spur of the moment. You will be able to use your charm to good effect. Be more reticent.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)
You should devote a little more time and attention to your personal affairs. Make sure you do not do anything you know your partner would not agree with. Do not get between a friend and a friend of his. Be reliable.



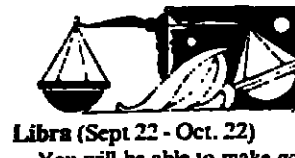
Cancer (June 21 - July 21)
You will be a little on the nervous side and should do all you can to calm yourself. A good talk will help to clear the air. Avoid taking any undue risks just now. Be prompt.



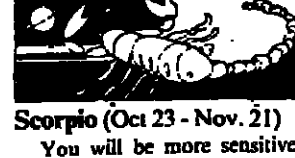
Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)
You should not allow some small matter to grow out of all proportion. You should try to put a brave face on a mishap that could not be avoided. An offer or proposal should be considered seriously. Be reasonable.



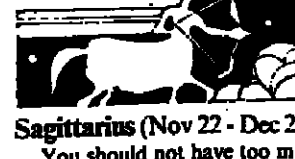
Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)
You should not have too much faith in your intuitive powers — reason still has precedence. Treat others justly if you want them to do likewise to you. You will be able to iron out some inconsistencies. Be a little more patient.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)
You will be able to make good progress with a favourite project. Make sure you show your gratitude, no harm in saying thank you once too often. You should not lose your calm whatever the provocation. Be reasonable.



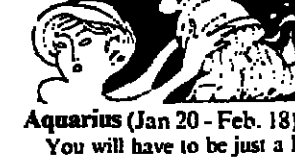
Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
You will be more sensitive to criticism but you should try to curb your sentiments. You should pay more attention to your personal affairs. You will be able to make good progress but you must not slacken your efforts. Be cordial.



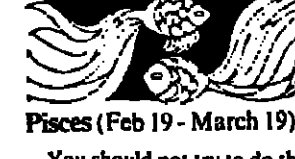
Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
You should not try to do things by force. You will be able to do something that has been on your mind for a while now. You should seek to think a little more positively. Be considerate.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
You will be able to hold your own in a competitive situation. You will be able to make good progress with one of your favourite projects. Make sure you do not resist change, rather welcome it. Be prompt.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)
You will have to be just a little more patient. Try to think the best of others if you want them to do the same where you are concerned. You should not allow a certain amount of success to go to your head. Be amenable.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)
You should not try to do things by force. You will be able to do something that has been on your mind for a while now. You should seek to think a little more positively. Be considerate.

MEDICINE



The precious gift of sight: baby Faye Seddons looks at a bunch of daffodils after an operation to remove cataracts from both her eyes.

Cataract operation restores sight to 8-week-old baby

Making contact with the world

By Jo Mears

BRIGHT-EYED baby Faye Seddons, looking forward to a bright future, thanks to a tiny pair of contact lenses.

She was virtually blind with cataracts in both eyes that seemed certain to trap her in a world of darkness. But now they have been removed and replaced with mini lenses that are believed to be the smallest in the world, and she can see perfectly.

Her mother, Julie, from Rotherham, Yorkshire, says: "I'm so relieved. If she hadn't had the operation within six months, she would have gone totally blind. But thanks to the operation and the new lenses, she can see. I can still hardly believe it."

Faye, now four months old, had the operation to remove the cataracts shortly after birth. And at just eight weeks old, she had the tiny lenses fitted, by her local optician, June Oliveri.

Since then she has never looked back.

June says: "I've fitted similar lenses on children aged about ten months. But Faye set a record at eight weeks."

Faye can wear the specially-made contact lenses day and night. But every six weeks she must have them removed and cleaned by the optician.

But when Faye was born Julie and her husband, Neil, 23, had no idea there was anything wrong.

Julie recalls: "It came as a complete shock to us. She seemed so perfect."

But two days after she was born, when the doctor was doing his usual check-up, he noticed some cloudiness in her eyes, which turned out to be cataracts.

"We were staggered because we thought the condition only happened to old people."

As a safety check the doctor carried out tests on Julie and Neil to see if they had passed on the condition.

When the tests proved negative Faye was given the delicate two hour operation to

Even babies are born with cataracts in their eyes. At eight weeks, little Faye Seddons of Yorkshire, UK, was operated upon and fitted with tiny contact lenses believed to be the tiniest in the world. Now she can see perfectly.

remove her cataracts. Using minute implements, surgeons cut Faye's eyes and literally "sucked" out her cloudy lenses.

Julie recalls: "I went with Faye to the theatre. Handing her over to the surgeons was terrible. My husband and I couldn't stand the anxiety of waiting, so we just went for a walk."

Success

"When we returned we were told the operation had been a success. Despite how small she was the surgeon had managed to do everything he could do."

Julie says: "The next day she looked so strange with two large pads over her eyes. But they were soon taken off and her eyes healed very quickly."

A month later, Faye paid her first visit to the optician.

Julie adds: "The first time her lenses were put in Faye wouldn't stop crying. Now when she goes to the optician, she doesn't mind at all. She seems to have taken to the lenses very well. She never seems to have any irritation."

But exactly how well Faye can see won't be known until she is old enough to speak.

Julie explains: "You can't give a child an eye test until it can tell you what it can see. At the moment they just use light sensors, to determine what strength of lenses to give her."

"At present her lenses are very thick, thicker than an adult's even. But, as she gets older, the strength should be reduced as her eyes change shape."

So far the only problem with baby Faye's lenses, seems to be losing them.



Julie Seddons, mother of baby Faye, looks lovingly at her daughter.

Julie says: "One fell out in the cot only the other day, but I didn't realise one was missing until much later on. And there is always the problem that they can slip round the back of her eye."

But her eyes are gradually improving. She's attracted to the light and looks toward it all the time. She particularly likes the inside light in the kitchen and spends hours gurgling away to it.

"Yet the best thing by far is the knowledge that she's going to be alright."

"I am still a bit wary about having more children at the moment because they don't know what caused the cataracts in Faye's eyes. But I do feel a lot happier now and I am sure Faye will be able to go to a normal school with all the other kids."

The Seddons won't know whether Faye will be short-sighted or long-sighted until she's older either.

Julie adds: "It won't be long before she tells us what she can see, because she's a proper little chatterbox. Until then we are just keeping our fingers crossed."

Dr Abbas Zaidi, of Rotherham District Hospital, who operated on little Faye, says: "The operation has been going for hundreds of years, but we have refined it so we can now do it on babies. Because Faye's own cloudy lenses were removed she needs artificial ones, so that she can focus. She wears contact lenses because it would be impossible for a baby to keep a thick pair of glasses on. When she's older though, she may want to opt for permanent glass implants instead."

Meanwhile Julie can't help walking around her, making sure Faye can see her.

She says: "Both my husband and I wear contact lenses so Faye is just keeping it in the family, she has just started young, that's all."

"To us she couldn't look better."

By Alain Elsner

STOCKHOLM: Once upon a time, AIDS conferences used to be attended by doctors and scientists.

At last week's International AIDS Conference in Stockholm, the 7,000 delegates also included mathematicians, statisticians, economists, sociologists, anthropologists, sexologists, criminologists, psychologists, jurists and historians.

Also, gay and women's rights activists, prostitutes, health ministers and scores of journalists—everyone it seems except AIDS sufferers themselves.

"AIDS has demonstrated eloquently that we must be capable of intellectual travel across the lines which separate many disciplines," said Halfdan Mahler, director-general of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

"We need to grasp each other's insights regarding the biological, behavioural, social, economic and political pieces of the AIDS problematique," he said.

This was another way of saying that with no signs of scientific breakthrough that could lead to an effective vaccine or cure for AIDS, more and more people in more and more different fields are going to be affected by the AIDS problem.

The conference was jointly organised by the WHO and Swedish medical and social services organisations.

According to WHO figures, some 94,000 cases of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) have been reported worldwide.

But the real figure could be double that, while between five and 10 million people are believed to have been infected with HIV, the virus which causes AIDS.

Millions of those will become ill within the next decade and hundreds of thousands will die. Some delegates to the conference attacked the record of the early years of AIDS research as being too obsessed with the vision of a quick fix—a miracle cure or mass vaccine that could stop the epidemic in its tracks.

AIDS: much effort, very little progress



An AIDS victim: no signs of a scientific breakthrough in the search for a cure.

"We are too concerned with drugs and vaccines," said David Baltimore of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

"Here we are eight years into the decade of AIDS and we know that drugs and vaccines are hard to come by. We need to go back to HIV as a virus, figure out its secrets, find its Achilles heel, the chinks in its armour, act like smart humans," he said.

Many scientists, like Baltimore, used the language and imagery of war in their presentations. Many seemed full of intellectual wonder at the sophistication, complexity and elusiveness of the virus they were studying.

HIV, said Reinhard Kurth of the Paul Ehrlich Institute in Frankfurt, West Germany, entered the body like a Trojan horse, lulling the immune system to sleep, destroying the body's ability to pick itself against infections.

"Infected cells may act as Trojan horses, allowing the

virus to cross the brain-blood barrier and transmit itself to new hosts," he said.

This discovery of a so-called "silent period" in HIV infection, when the virus does not replicate and is not detectable by conventional means, was one of the main scientific innovations of the conference.

"What happens is that the virus turns itself off and the body's immune system shuts down. Then, later, the virus springs back to life," said William Haseltine, a researcher with the Harvard Medical School.

One implication was that conventional AIDS tests, which measure the presence of HIV antibodies in the body, are not totally reliable.

Another worrying conclusion from the conference was that a mutant strain of the AIDS virus—known as HIV-2 and previously thought to be less dangerous variety—could turn out to be just as deadly as the original.

New evidence suggested that HIV-2 was prevalent in West

Africa, where it was causing a growing number of deaths, and was quickly spreading to the United States and Europe.

If, as many speakers said, mankind is engaged in a war against AIDS, then the conclusion from the conference was that although science had scored some significant successes, AIDS was still winning.

The disease was spread to 136 countries. Now, it is threatening to sweep through drug growing regions of Asia and Latin America and take hold among an army of cocaine users in the United States.

It is spreading virtually unchecked in parts of Africa where it seems certain to cause a net population loss in several countries. It is growing fast among heterosexuals in the United States and Europe.

"I'm more scared to death than I've ever been. This thing is much more out of control than anyone is willing to admit," said Robert Couids, head of an AIDS volunteer organisation in Miami.

Many believe prevention through education programmes holds the best hope. But some campaigns had proved misguided.

King Holmes, a researcher based in Seattle in the United States, said: "Money is being diverted from syphilis control to AIDS control and that is a blueprint for disaster."

He said it was becoming increasingly clear from studies that people with other sexually-transmitted diseases, such as syphilis, gonorrhoea and genital ulcers were much more likely to catch AIDS.

"Control of genital ulcer disease should clearly receive the highest priority in all countries," Holmes said.

George Klein of Sweden's Karolinska Institute warned against putting too much faith in education campaigns.

"The power of education is limited at best and we only have to look at the record of 20 years of anti-smoking campaigns to see that. It is naive to expect education to have a major impact," he said.

"Molecular biology still offers the best hope of bringing HIV under control," he said.

Beware sunglasses wearers: The wrong pair can hurt both wallet and eyes

By Peg Byron

NEW YORK, (UPI): Those cute sunglasses with plastic penguin frames you bought as a souvenir for a child—like many fancy designer shades that don't protect against the damaging rays of the sun—could be worthless or even dangerous.

The wrong sunglasses may do more harm than good, and a surprising number, even some pairs costing hundreds of dollars, don't measure up to sun protection standards that many scientists say are needed.

Eyes need protection in bright sun from ultraviolet and blue rays of light, say many experts who believe such rays can damage the cornea and even the irreplaceable retina.

"I never go outside without eye protection," said eye specialist Dr Jeffrey Taveras of New York Hospital in a recent magazine article that printed one of the first consumer guides on sunglasses protection.

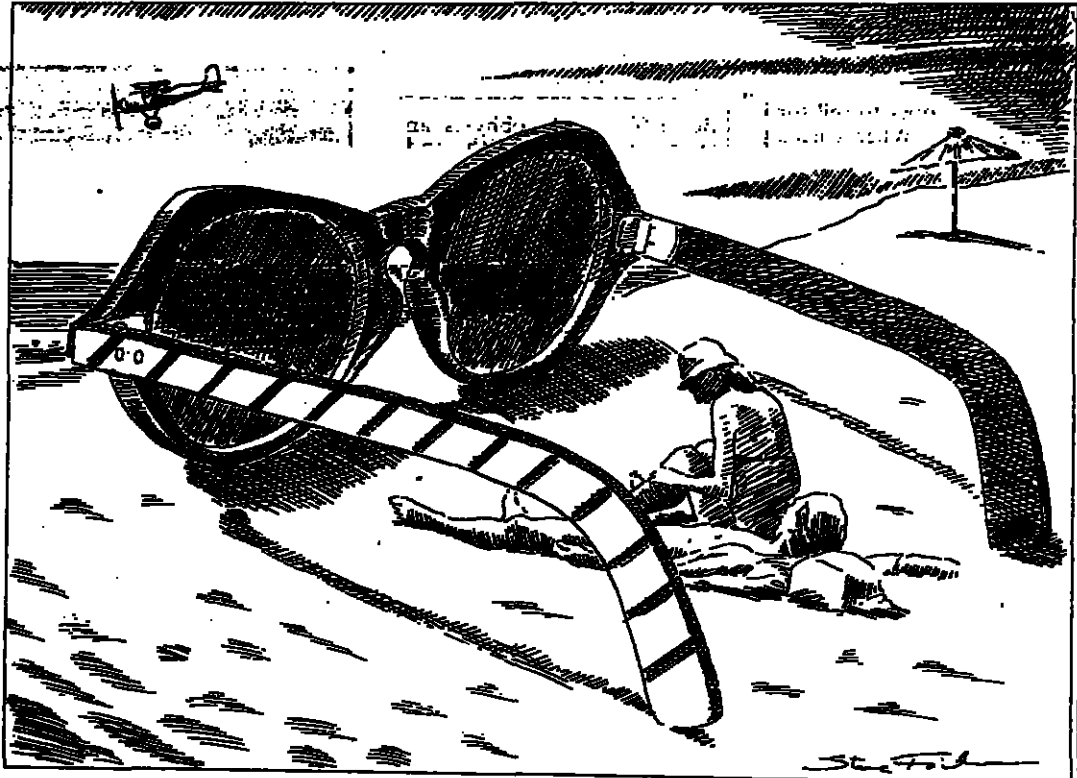
"This may sound dramatic, but it's like radioactivity—there is no safe dose and it has a cumulative effect," he said.

Not all eye specialists are so concerned, but most recommend getting some eye protection if you are frequently in bright light.

Cataract Invisible ultraviolet rays may eventually cause the lens or its surrounding transparent membrane to cloud and obstruct the passage of light, a condition known as a cataract.

Blue light, which is near the ultraviolet end of the light spectrum, is also suspected of being harmful, especially for older people who have had part of the eye's natural filter removed with cataract operations.

"It's easy to protect against these rays if your sunglasses have the right kind of lens,"



Shedding light on dark glasses

said Dr Felix Barker, an associate professor at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in Philadelphia.

But it is not so easy for the consumer to determine what sunglasses are best. And the wrong kind of sunglasses, although they reduce glare and filter some light, may act like a welcome mat for damaging rays, which can pour in as the pupil dilates behind dark lenses, Barker warned.

"The amount of light exposure increases as a function of the diameter of the pupil, so as the pupil dilates, you get progressively more and more light into the eye. So, if you are dilating the eye in bright sunlight, you could theoretically let more light in," he said.

Bright sunlight, intensified by white surroundings, like a beach or snowy mountainside, is most dangerous because it

includes the most ultraviolet and blue rays.

"As a rule of thumb, the shorter the wave length, the more damage to the cornea in front of the pupil," he explained. "The big thing we have known about for a long time is damage to the surface of the eye from ultraviolet-B."

The shortest light wavelength, UVB, can cause sloughing off of cells of the cornea, an acutely painful though repairable condition often suffered by skiers and welders, he said.

Over longer periods of intense light exposure, the thin mucous layer over the white of the eye, called the conjunctiva, can be damaged, resulting in tumours or thickening of the tissue later in life.

"It's really more a problem cosmetically, permanent reddening of the eyes, which you may not care for," Baxter said, comparing the effect to the

unattractive results of chronic tanning.

"You have heard about leathery skin from too much sun? Well, you can get leathery eyes too, he said."

A UV screen on sunglasses is not related to the colour of the lens, but consumers may get help from labels placed voluntarily by some manufacturers. These usually refer just to UVB rays.

However, UVA rays, with longer wave lengths, are believed to contribute to the development of cataracts, probably through chemical reactions as the tissues are exposed to the sun.

Although concerned, scientists are less certain about the effects of blue light, and even a landmark proposal by the New York state consumer protection board to require labeling on sunglasses does not address the issue.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: My kid almost died from swallowing pesticides—would you please warn your readers that these are dangerous chemicals, not to be left around?

ANSWER: No chemical can be dismissed as harmless, and all should be used and stored with every possible precaution to prevent children from coming in contact with them.

When children are exposed to pesticides, the symptoms may be more subtle and confusing than they are in adults, so it is important to be aware of the hazards and be prepared to handle the problem.

One problem is that the signs that suggest pesticides poisoning in adults—salivation (drooling), lacrimation (tears), urination and defecation (bowel movement)—can be mistaken for normal behaviour in an infant or toddler.

The most common signs of poisoning in children include excessive salivation, muscle weakness and sluggishness. Many children also will have a rapid heartbeat, and some will have spasmodic seizures.

Pesticide poisoning can look like other,

more common pediatric illnesses, such as coma, head trauma, bronchitis, pneumonia, or even diabetes or shigellosis.

One of the most clear-cut symptoms of pesticide poisoning is miosis—contracted, tiny pupils of the eye, described as "pinpoint pupils."

Although the most common way a child becomes poisoned is by eating or drinking pesticides, it also can occur from exposure to an area that has been sprayed or fogged with the chemicals. Playing on a lawn or carpet that has recently been treated can result in poisoning.

Ingesting a poison will usually produce symptoms immediately, but some poisons, and poisoning that occurs through skin exposure, may come on more slowly.

Laboratory tests can be helpful in diagnosing pesticide poisoning, but treatment should begin as soon as poisoning is suspected. Treatment is aimed at reversing the toxic effects of the chemicals. The antidote will depend on the specific pesticide involved. Your local emergency room and advice from your local Poison Control Cen-

tre are your best front-line defenses.

While treating acute poisoning is crucial, it is important to correct—and better still, prevent—the situation that led to the episode. Most children are poisoned in their homes by chemicals that had been stored carelessly or placed in unmarked and uncovered containers. This is a good time of year to perform a home safety check and correct those dangerous situations.

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW: If you have ever flown from one time zone to another, you might have found that you were not quite your usual peppy self upon arrival. Impaired concentration, slow reflexes, irritability, depression and upset digestion combine with daytime sleepiness and insomnia at night to make things pretty miserable for the traveler. All are, or may be, symptoms of jet lag.

In a major study of long-distance travelers sponsored by the Upjohn Company, in co-operation with United Airlines and British Airways, 94 per cent of those surveyed suffered jet-lag symptoms.

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CHEMICALS SHOULD BE STORED WITH PRECAUTION

ANDY CAPP

By Smith



Chinese antiques pour into Hong Kong

By Michael di Cicco

HONG KONG, (UPI): Exotic and bargains ripe for the picking draw visitors to Hong Kong from all over the world. "There's a darker side to this and of glittering shop windows."

A world of grave robbers and muggers, playing their seamy trade out of China, plays a big role in the colony's tourist industry as its five-star hotels and skilled restaurants.

Hong Kong has become a centre for marketing smuggled antiques, most of which come from the adjoining Guangdong province in southern China. They end up on Hong Kong's Hollywood Road, a place filled with upmarket antique stores, seedy curio shops and rickety stalls, where thousands of tourists flock every year to hunt for bargains, hoping to take a piece of ancient China home with them.

Antique dealers on Hollywood Road readily admit the bulk of their wares are smuggled in from China, mostly by fishing boats sailing into Hong Kong at night.

Penalties Despite stiff penalties adopted by Chinese authorities last year against removing valuable artifacts, including the death sentence in one case, the smuggling trade is booming.

Local antique dealers boast an array of smuggled treasures ranging from \$5 jade trinkets to beautifully decorated porcelain and sculpture dating back hundreds of years before the Ming dynasty and selling for thousands of dollars.

"It's very simple," said one shopkeeper, who was eager to show off a large Han dynasty vase that she hopes to sell for around \$7,000. "When I need more antiques I talk to a man who knows someone in China and maybe a week later I get them."

China considers antiques to be a valuable part of its natural heritage, and officials there condemn the smuggling, saying it deals a severe blow to the protection and preservation of China's cultural legacy.

Yet, according to one Chinese newspaper, the practice has become so common that thieves are now robbing graves during the daytime and riding around in taxis looking for the most lucrative spots to plunder.

"It's impossible to estimate how much of the stuff gets across the border," said Suzanne T'ory, managing director of Sotheby's Hong Kong.

"Most of it is sold to tourists," she said. "We don't have anything to do with it. We don't take anything directly from China at all."

Government officials here estimate up to 600 trading vessels and 500 fishing boats come into Hong Kong from China each day.

"We stop boats at random, but we have only three vessels and we can't search all them all," said Patrick Williamson, Hong Kong's commissioner of customs and excise. "And if we do stop a boat that has a few pieces of porcelain or something onboard, how can we tell if it's antique or not?"

Help Customs and excise does get occasional help in thwarting the smuggling epidemic from Hong Kong's marine police. The force, which patrols the colony's shoreline, does randomly search boats and will and any craft found with a load of antiques over to customs.

However, marine police officials declined to comment on how active a role they take in looking for smugglers, saying it is an "operational matter."

The combined effort of the two forces hasn't met with much success. They have stopped only seven smugglers in the last 15 months, according to official statistics.

"From what we see there really doesn't seem to be all that much smuggling going on," Williamson said. Though the ill-stocked shelves on Hollywood Road appear to contradict that view.

When the marine police or customs and excise do stumble on a boat filled with smuggled antiques, the smugglers will usually go to jail but, Williamson said, only for about two to three months on a charge of exporting unmanifested cargo.

Subterranean world of wit, whimsy, wonder for just one dollar

Art gallery — under Manhattan's mean streets

By Steve James

NEW YORK, (Reuter): New York's most visited art gallery is not on the mean streets of Manhattan, but under them.

To enter this subterranean world of wit, whimsy and wonder, it costs just one dollar — the price of a fare for the underground railway.

Down in the underground tunnels, often infested by rats or crime and where the clatter of trains is sometimes painful, art is blossoming.

Paintings and sculptures, mosaics and murals commissioned by the authorities are bringing light back to a system used by an estimated 3.7 million people every day.

"I really believe art makes a difference," said Wendy Feuer, director of the arts for transit office of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) which runs the subway.

She cited an underground stop in the borough of Brooklyn where graffiti has completely disappeared from station walls since local artists produced a mural.

Other examples of art improving the environment are bronze triangles inlaid in the enamel at a stop in Harlem, a mural in porcelain and enamel incorporating photographs of local scenes spelling out "Woodside," at the station of that name and a 69-foot (21-metre) plastic wave by Kristi Pfister at the Coney Island station.

The latest project is at the Herald Square station in Manhattan close to the Empire State building and the world famous Macy's department store.

Feuer said artists' work had to be designed for hard wear in the busy underground. Hence artists use such materials as perspex or enamel, bronze and tile.

In addition to the permanent

Down in the underground tunnels of New York, often infested by rats or crime, art is blossoming. Paintings and sculptures, mosaics and murals commissioned by the authorities are bringing lights to the drab underworld.



A New Yorker and her cat pause by the mural in a subway station in Brooklyn. Art works commissioned by the Metropolitan Transit Authority are bringing light to a system used by an estimated 3.7 million commuters a day.

incorporation of works of art in underground stops, there is a project under which local community groups sponsor temporary displays such as paintings by local schoolchildren.

Enhances

Feuer's office also runs "Music Under New York," which sponsors musicians playing at selected stations and which staged a ballet at the opening of the newly renovated

grand central station. Feuer said the presence of art not only enhances the atmosphere at sometimes dingy stations, but it also acts as a deterrent to graffiti and other vandalism.

"On permanent art work there is no graffiti," Feuer said in an interview.

"People say 'it makes us feel somebody cares,'" she said of the MTA's "creative station" programme that began in late

1985.

It came at a time when the city was trying hard to improve conditions on the underground rail system which has the most stations, 463 for 231 miles (370 km) of track, in the world. London's has more miles of track and Moscow's carries more passengers.

In the 1970s and early 1980s, many New Yorkers appeared loath to use a system in which 95 per cent of train cars were

daubed with graffiti. The often filthy stations were sites of muggings, rapes and other crimes.

But since David Gunn became head of the MTA in 1984 and instituted an anti-graffiti campaign, some 86 per cent of the nearly 6,000 cars are now free of the brightly-coloured, spray-painted squiggles some call vandalism and others art.

In three years, the number of passenger journeys has risen by 250,000 a day.

Along with the clean-up campaign, the MTA decided that by officially sanctioning artwork in the underground, it could channel the artists' urges away from the trains and walls.

The programme operates on an annual budget of \$100,000, including salaries and costs of commissioning work. A panel of professional artists views proposed works.

Idea

Feuer said that the idea of an aesthetically-pleasing underground is not new, noting that August Belmont, who built the first New York line in 1904 — the IRT or inter-borough rapid transit — allocated \$50,000 dollars toward "refinement."

Ironically, the least noticed of New York's station art is a piece of "sound art" which for more than 10 years has been emitting a series of electronic sounds through the gratings in the traffic island on Broadway just north of Times Square.

Artist Max Neuhaus' untitled work is probably ignored by most of the millions of people who walk over it, thinking it is noise from an electric generator. Actually, the sounds vary in pattern over a 24-hour period.

"This piece is deliberately anonymous," said Neuhaus. "Each person has to find it for him or herself. They will find it when they are ready to find it."



These drawings of Thomas More and Mary Zouche were made by Holbein the Younger at the court of Henry VIII of England.

Holbein: a shrewd analyst

By Hugo Fritz

HAMBURG (DaD): Artistic treasure trove of a special kind was recently on show at the Kunsthalle in Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany, and can now be admired at the Kunstmuseum in Basel, Switzerland.

It is a selection of drawings made by Hans Holbein the Younger at the court of Henry VIII in Tudor, England. The 50 drawings, including many studies for portraits in oil, are on loan from the library of Queen Elizabeth II at Windsor Castle.

It is the first time they have ever been shown on the continent. They portray personalities from the first half of the 16th century as though they were still alive to tell the tale.

Holbein makes them seem strikingly close. He is not just a stickler for details of the human face but also a shrewd analyst who reveals the character behind the features. He is a Renaissance artist who bears the hallmark of humanism.

The Renaissance ideals his art embodies stand out in strange contrast from the intrigue, unpredictability and violence of Realpolitik as pursued by Henry VIII. A number of people whose portraits Holbein painted ended

on the scaffold Sir Thomas More, for instance, was beheaded in 1533 for refusing to acknowledge Henry VIII as head of the Church of England.

In keeping with the uncertainty of the age in which they lived, everyone portrayed by Holbein in the drawings on show in Hamburg has a look of deep earnest. None has even the trace of a smile. This intensifies their presence, that of personalities it is hard to resist.

Acclaim

Hans Holbein the Younger, who was born in 1497 in Augsburg, is one of the few German painters to have achieved international acclaim. As a journeyman he went to Basel, where he specialised in interior decoration, but the iconoclastic tenor of the Reformation made him move.

He arrived at the court of Henry VIII with a letter of recommendation from Erasmus of Rotterdam. From the age of 28 he spent most of his life in England, where he died aged 45 in 1533. His works are to be found in many leading collections. A comprehensive exhibition has yet to be held. That made the rediscovery of Holbein the Younger in Hamburg all the more important.

Lobbying for artistic recognition

By Ellen Steese

BOSTON — A lobby is an expression of wealth and power; it's the architectural equivalent of dripping with diamonds. Any building grand enough to have one has an idea behind it, beyond the mere roofing for survival. The lobby expresses that idea, gently indicating the aesthetic appreciation, reverence, or nostalgia you should feel as you head for the prosaic, even grubby, floors where actual work takes place. Says Boston architect Todd Lee, "If (a lobby) doesn't explain what goes on in the building, it hasn't done its job."

Lobbies are, as they say, where you find them; and a true aficionado learns to look through half-open doors and read facades. The pastime can be practiced anywhere. But cities like Boston — old, gracious, full of antique structures — offer especially rich pickings. A ramble through Boston buildings tells in its particulars a larger tale of lobby-as-art-form.

One of the strangest lobbies in Boston is in City Hall; but then, City Hall is a very strange building. It has an odd weightlessness, as if lightly tethered to the ground by means of its pillars; it squats over the lobby like a monumental concrete chicken crate brooding over a rectangular glass egg.

Flows The brick plaza outside flows straight into the brick floor inside. People walk through, striding along with swinging arms, as if they were outdoors. You can see a number of Boston landmarks through the windows; you feel a part of the whole city here.

This is a friendly home for civic causes. Two short-haired women in slacks and cardigan sweater vests are creating an enclosure for a meeting by briskly tying blue balloons to the stair railings; the balloons say "Office Workers' Pride." A bearded man at a nearby table signs up people for a Walk for Hunger. "Bring your friends," he says kindly.

There is not a great attention to aesthetics: Japanese stone lanterns, pianos, things like that, get shoved into corners, unless they are wanted for some event. You feel like taping your own sign on the wall; there is a feeling that here your needs are legitimate.

Very different is the lobby of the State House, home of the Massachusetts legislature, which is full of appreciated and beautiful things: All Roman grandeur and martial themes. Nineteen kinds of marble are used in the arches and stairways; it's almost worth coming



The frescoed entrance hall of the Copley Plaza hotel in Boston.

here for the mosaic floors alone. This lobby is a history lesson: There are frescoes of Paul Revere's Ride and the Boston Tea Party, for instance, and famous governors and heroes in bronze.

"The notion of lobbies as public rooms that furnish meeting places for different kinds of people is the height of what makes civilisation in a city," says Mr Lee. "If we don't provide public spaces — and many of them need to be interior in a climate like ours — I think you end up segregating elements of our population, one from another; and you lose a lot."

If this were a hotel, you wouldn't dare walk in the door in street clothes; as it is, schoolchildren sit on the floor or run shrieking down the marble stairs.

Some volunteer guides called the Doric Dames will show you around and explain what everything is. My favourite item is a beautiful stained glass window that shows the evolution of the Massachusetts state seal; the original, designed in England, features an Indian who is saying, "Come over and save us."

Hotel lobbies, on the other

hand, put a burden on the visitor; they reproach jeans and untidiness. A really first-rate hotel appeals to fantasy: We are rich and important and lead golden lives.

The prime function of a hotel lobby is to separate the exhausted traveller from the world outside. Hotel lobbies allow you to adjust your thoughts from the hurly-burly; that is why they so often have velvet carpets and restful flowing lines.

Visible

One of the most visible hotel lobbies is in the Copley Plaza.

The Copley Plaza is a hotel for Anglophiles. A doorman opens the door for you and you drift elegantly up a long, narrow hall lined with Chinese cachepots on tall tables, discreet cases of items for sale on the walls, under a ceiling that is a series of little blue domes.

When you reach the lobby, all you see are brilliant, luxurious surfaces: crystal chandeliers, ornate gilded ceilings, electric blue custom-made carpet, marble pillars. You can sit in the Tea Court and eat scones and dream of Empire, surrounded

by palms and a marble balustrade.

"One of the things about the Copley Plaza lobby: Because it has more height than the Ritz, it's able to work better as the focussing of the energy of that hotel," says Lee.

"It can accept, usually with grace, the crowds that come out of the ballroom," he adds. "It's better when they're in white tie, of course. That's a wonderful lobby to go to a wait evening in. And that animates the lobby, in turn."

A lobby should be an entranceway, and the lobby of the old Boston Public Library isn't really that anymore; to get there most people enter the new building on Boylston Street and take a left through little corridors and past a secret courtyard.

Entering the old way, you are greeted by the statue of Henry Vane — in cocked hat, lovelocks, plume, and boots — and, on the heavy doors, various bronze ladies in drapery.

It's a backwater now; a guard sits indifferently at a desk, a few people wander absently through. But still the ceiling has its domes and mosaics — twining vines and the names of great 19th-century authors. A broad stairway with windows at the top draws you; you float upward, drawn to the light, between two long-nosed lions, library lions, proud but not unfriendly.

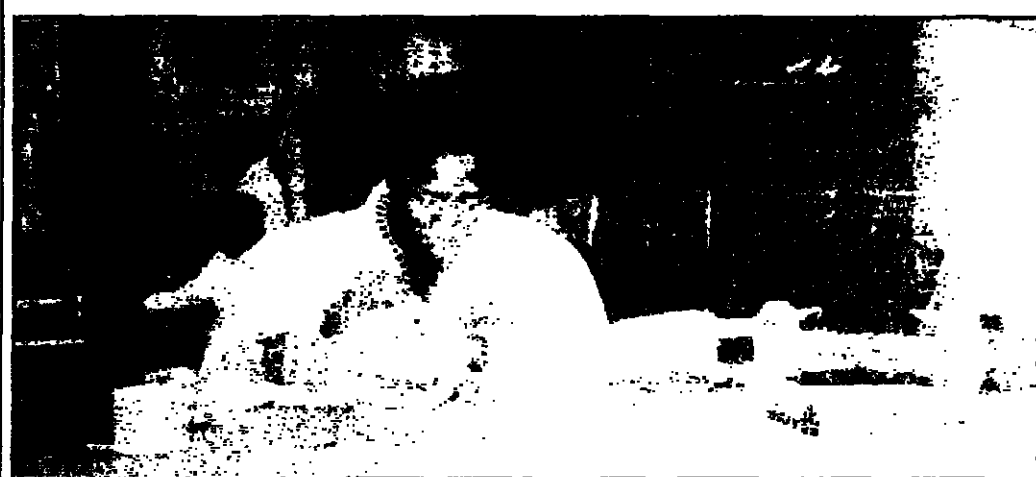
This lobby was plainly designed when scholarship meant the study of classical thought, as reflected in classical architecture. The marble is the immensely learned-looking colour of old books. There is everything you could want in the way of a pillar and a pilaster, as well as classical frescoes of robed figures frolicking by a classical blue sea.

In one golden alcove sits a gray-haired woman, austere and thin. She looks ragged but intellectual: silver tape on her feet, with holes in the toes. Is she a bag lady? A college professor? Her hair in a bun, she could be a classical figure, too — representing, perhaps, the Human Spirit. A lofty pile of books next to her: she rests the top one on the pile and bends over it and mutters, reading aloud.

Small sounds here make huge echoes, the aural equivalent of a tiny figure in a searchlight casting a giant shadow. There is a continual vast hum, like a thousand people thinking.

People are the only things in the lobby that change. They shuffle through quickly, on loud echoing sneakered feet, and are gone.

1988, The Christian Science Monitor News Service.



An official of the Mali National Museum treats a wooden statue, eaten away by termites.

Termites eat away valuable treasures

African heritage bites the dust

By Barry Moody

ROME, (Reuter): Something is eating away at Africa's cultural heritage.

All over the continent millions of wood and cloth eating insects are doing irreparable damage to museum collections.

Combined with theft from museums and archaeological sites, and other forms of deterioration, the insects threaten the survival of highly significant collections of art worth millions of dollars.

Many major works have already been lost but in a corner of Rome's Trastevere district, experts are training African museum staff in the often simple and cheap ways to save their collections before it is too late.

Eleven museum staff from all over English-speaking Africa are this month completing a year-long course in which they have learned how to conserve, exhibit, catalogue, store and defend against theft, as well as train their colleagues.

The course, run by the inter-governmental organisation Icom (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) is the second of its kind after a Francophone scheme in 1986-87.

Gael de Guichen, the irrepressibly enthusiastic French supervisor of the course, said: "Unfortunately museums themselves have often contributed to the deterioration of their collections, and not only in Africa."

He said he had seen bark masks so badly decayed that they fell to pieces when moved. In one museum, which he preferred not to name, a three-metre (10 feet) high termite hill stood close to a room where more than 700 wooden masks were stored.

The termites had turned black masks white, eating away the outer surface and leaving a

pile of dust in the storage room. Philip Ravenhill, chief curator of the National Museum of African Art in Washington and one of the course lecturers, said of an occasion when he grasped the handle of a wooden implement in a museum and it turned to dust in his hand, eaten away from inside by insects.

De Guichen described another West African museum where staff were proud of an electrically-revolving showcase which turned traditional costumes constantly around.

He called this device, designed by a European technician, the "roast chicken". The once brilliant colours of the costumes had faded to dull greys and browns because of exposure to sunlight and the revolving mechanism meant that none of the original colour remained, even at the back.

Theft from inadequately protected museums is another severe threat. A collection in the Ivory Coast's national museum now contains only 119 of the 226 objects catalogued when it toured Europe and Latin America in the late 1960s.

Seven superb bronze and terracotta objects dating from between the ninth and 15th centuries disappeared from the National Museum in Jos, Nigeria last year shortly after returning from exhibitions in Europe and North America.

Custom

Ravenhill said a unique collection of 40,000 glass photograph negatives taken in French colonial times and showing West African custom and initiation ceremonies were found lying in shoe boxes on the floor in Dakar's Iffan Museum.

Ways to protect African collections, taught at the Rome course, are often astonishingly simple.

Claude Ardoin, director of the West African museums project in Dakar, said that insects which eat traditional

leather and wool objects could be killed by placing the materials in the sun once a month.

Another simple protection was to exhibit organic objects far enough apart to prevent insects moving from one to another.

In some museums, valuable African masks are merely hanging by a piece of string, easy to remove and steal, or have nails driven into the back as hooks. Ravenhill said lack of cataloguing meant thieves had no difficulty exporting valuable objects because there could be no proof that they were once exhibits in a museum.

In Mali there has been wholesale pillage of archaeological sites. Ravenhill estimated at least two thousand important terracotta objects from the 12th to 14th centuries had been crudely dug up and smuggled out of the country, mainly into private collections. In comparison Mali's own national museum has about 20 such pieces.

"These objects become an export crop for part of the population to the detriment of the community," he said.

Ends

The Rome course includes visits to Venice, Florence, Naples and other Italian cities and ends with study trips to London and Paris. Candidates have to have worked for at least five years in their own museums to show their commitment.

The 11-month course costs \$300,000, contributed by France, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Britain, Italy, UNESCO, the European community and private bodies including the Ford Foundation and Getty Trust.

A new Francophone course begins in November and De Guichen is attempting to establish a 10-year programme with courses that will have external degree status from a French and a British University.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Caution prevails

Ceasefire raises contractors' hopes

ZURICH, Switzerland, Aug. 21. (Reuters): A Gulf ceasefire brings prospects of a reconstruction boom in Iraq and Iran but the optimism is tempered by caution among Western firms with stakes in the area.

Some of those which abandoned projects when war broke out now hope to recoup their investment, a poll by Reuters correspondents found. They cite safer conditions and the fact that billions of oil dollars need no longer be spent on arms.

But the scale of war damage raises doubt on how much money Iran and Iraq will be free to use to settle debts — something contractors say will be important in allaying concerns.

Projects

Major projects stalled by the war include a nuclear power plant in Iran being built by West Germany's Siemens AG and the Bandar Khomeini Petrochemical Plant, a joint venture by Iran and Mitsui and Co. of Japan.

A spokesman for Siemens

Kraftwerke Union (KWU) power plant division said it was too early to say whether construction of two blocks of the nuclear reactor at Bushehr would now go ahead.

"In principle we would be ready to negotiate," he said. The project, begun in 1975, was broken off in 1979 after the revolution in Iran because KWU was not fully paid.

On the other hand, Framatome, leader of a French consortium building a nuclear power plant at Khorramshahr in Iran, said it has no hope that the site will be reactivated.

Damaged
A spokesman said the work stopped in 1979 and the site was badly damaged in the war. The contract is in arbitration but Framatome thinks Iran has no further interest in it.

Other firms said they may not rush back to unfinished work. "We are still interested but on the condition that we can work in reasonable surroundings," said a spokesman for Losinger AG, a

Swiss construction company that broke off work on two projects in Iran after the Shah fell.

Japanese industry sources said Mitsui wants to withdraw from the \$3.5 billion Iran-Japan Petrochemical Co. project in Bandar Khomeini. Japanese engineers abandoned the near-complete project in 1984 after some were injured in Iraqi air raids.

Italian firms point to a dispute between state industrial group Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale (IRI) and Iran over debts for building docks at Bandar Abbas. IRI claims debts worth some \$960 million. Iran acknowledges around one third of this.

Compromise

Trade Minister Renato Ruggero went to Iran this month and set up a committee to search for a compromise within 60 days. A settlement could clear the way for closer commercial ties.

Two Finnish construction firms, Haka Construction Co-

operative and Yit-Yhtymä, hope a ceasefire will speed partial payment still due for work on an entertainment centre worth \$125 million which they built on an island in the Tigris north of Baghdad between 1980 and 1983.

Spanish trade sources said Dragados y Construcciones had two projects suspended by war — one at Bandar Abbas port and the other to build an antibiotics factory in Iraq.

At the Confederation of Danish Industries, marketing chief Christian Wittenkamp said Denmark stood to gain new orders worth up to \$550 million in the near future from Iran alone.

The main problem remains financing projects in Iran and Iraq and outstanding debts in Iraq, Wittenkamp said.

Iraqi debt service problems were also cited by Business International SA, a Geneva-based business consultant, as a potential stumbling block to regional recovery.

"Political instability in Iran

and problems with debt servicing in Iraq will check reconstruction plans in the event of a ceasefire in the Gulf war," it said in a study. Continuing weak oil prices would hurt Iraq, with the bigger foreign debt.

But for firms that can find the financing, Iran and Iraq hold promise of rich pickings.

Japan's Institute of Middle East Economics estimates foreign engineers and construction firms can expect orders worth about \$50 billion from Iran and more than 100 billion from Iraq when rebuilding starts.

Plant
Post-war orders aimed at repairing crippled industrial plant are estimated at just under \$40 billion for Iran and around 16 billion for Iraq.

"There will be more opportunities for new contracts worth millions of dollars in the reconstruction of infrastructure, repair of damaged off-shore installations and oil production platforms in the Gulf," said Lai Park On, managing director of

Singapore's Sembawang Maritime Ltd.

Italian industry is interested in developing the Iranian market in food, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. West Germany seeks contracts in construction and oil.

Boost

Most British contractors have been active in the region, specifically Balfour Beatty, Taylor Woodrow, Laing and Wimpey, but London-based industry analyst Ian Booth doubted they would expect a significant boost to contracting in the short-term.

"Most of the work is likely to go to Japanese, Far Eastern and local contractors," Booth said. "I doubt there will be a big boost to the flagship contractors in the UK unless things change politically in the region."

In Asia, Thailand and China see peace as a chance to export commodities and labour to the Gulf. They see big textile and garment markets and buyers for Thai maize and rice.

World Business Summary

Third World debt to figure in IMF talks

WEST BERLIN, Aug. 21: New approaches to solving the debt crisis of the Third World will be among the subjects to be discussed at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank here from September 27 to 29, reports Economic Times. More support for African countries in their fight against poverty and greater efforts by major nations to eliminate their dangerous imbalances will be the other important topics for consideration of participants from 151 countries. According to the United Nations' World Economic Survey 1988, the world economy is continuing to expand, but persistent imbalances among the industrial countries and external indebtedness of developing countries are undermining efforts to stabilise it. The survey has stressed the need for debt relief for the developing countries. The UN report has pointed out that the net transfer of resources of capital importing developing countries has shown an outflow of at least \$20 billion annually since 1985 in the contrast to the \$40 billion inflows to these countries in the beginning of 1980. The report suggested that political leadership from creditor governments is needed to deal with the 'debt overhang.' The governments could set broad guidelines for debt reduction packages, within which commercial banks could negotiate with individual countries on a case-by-case basis. Official rescheduling could also include a greater degree of conditionality. The report has suggested that new proposals, including establishing debt reconstruction facility to buy discounted commercial bank debt and pass on part of that discount to debtor countries seem necessary to deal with the debt overhang.

Royal Insurance pre-tax profit declines

LONDON, Aug. 21: Royal Insurance Holdings PLC said first-half pre-tax profit dropped 2.6 per cent as earnings from its big U.S. operations continued to lag year-earlier results, reports Wall Street Journal. The big UK composite insurer said pre-tax profit in the six months ended June 30 was £154 million (\$261 million), down from £158.1 million (\$268 million) a year earlier. The company nevertheless increased its interim dividend to 9.5 pence a share from 8.25 pence. Royal's profit after taxes and minority interests fell to £94.1 million from £105.5 million, and per-share earnings dropped to 19.8 pence from 22.3 pence. The company's Royal USA unit saw pre-tax profit fall more than half in the six months, to £28.6 million from £81.2 million. In late trading Thursday on London's Stock Exchange, Royal's shares were unchanged at 397 pence each. But group Chief Executive Alan Horsford said there was a "particularly good result in the United Kingdom," where he expects strong premium income growth to continue through the year. UK pre-tax profit increased to £60.2 million in the period from £16.2 million. Total premium income increased to £1.63 billion from £1.61 billion. The reduced US profit "reflects a mixture of continuing good and profitable growth in some of our best regions and sharp cutbacks in others as a result of firm underwriting action," Horsford said. For example, Royal had a profit and posted premium growth of 13 per cent in the northeastern US, while it ran up large losses and saw premiums drop 9.1 per cent in California, he said. But Royal's primary insurance business in the US continued to deteriorate, the chief executive said. Total US premiums were down 11 per cent at £602.2 million from £679.3 million.

SABIC profits surge

RIYADH, Aug. 21, (KUNA): The Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) has increased its net profits by 400 per cent in 1987 despite the drop in the price of oil and natural gas and regardless of the various restrictions imposed on its exports by some European countries. The Jeddah-based Okaz newspaper today quoted Ghazi Al-Jalali, director of industry and commerce at the Planning Ministry, as saying SABIC's petrochemical products now reach more than 65 countries. He said all productive sectors have achieved high growth rates during 1987-88, especially in the fields of agriculture and services. Jalali foresees a bright future for Saudi petrochemicals industry, which he said enjoys many privileges including abundant raw material, cheap fuel and adequate capital. "These will continue with the production of oil and natural gas for the next century," he said. He expected the local market to expand in the future thus increasing the requirement for more petrochemicals and said a number of industries based on petrochemicals will be established in the long run.

Trade policy criticised

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21, (Reuters): Democratic vice-presidential candidate Lloyd Bentsen accused the Reagan administration yesterday of ignoring America's trade problems and backing a trade reform bill only when it became politically necessary. Urging President Reagan to sign a massive trade bill passed by Congress earlier this month, Bentsen said he and the Democratic presidential nominee, Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, considered trade "an urgent national priority." "Governor Dukakis and I urge him to sign that legislation, because it is important to the working men and women of America," Bentsen said. "It is important to American industry and to our future ability to compete for world markets," the Texas senator said. After initially vetoing the bill, Reagan said more than two weeks ago he would sign the bill, a major overhaul of US trade laws designed to break foreign barriers to American goods. The White House has scheduled a signing ceremony on Tuesday in the port of Long Beach, California, near Los Angeles. Reagan is on holiday at his Santa Barbara ranch and is not scheduled to return to Washington until September 6. After Reagan's veto, Congress removed the plant closing notification provision from the package and passed it as a separate bill, which the President did not sign, but allowed to become law by not vetoing it. In his radio address, Bentsen also blamed Vice-President George Bush, the Republican presidential nominee, for what he termed the administration's reluctance in reform trade laws.

UK bank lending on the rise

LONDON, Aug. 21: Britain's bank and building society lending soared again last month, but economists said the increases probably won't prompt a further rise soon in banks' base rates. The Bank of England said bank and building society loans jumped a record £9 billion (\$15.2 billion) last month, up from an increase of £8.8 billion (\$14.9 billion) in June and £5.32 billion in July 1987. Building societies are UK mortgage-lending associations. Britain's central bank also said the broad measure of money supply known as M-4 rose about 2.1 per cent in July, after a 1.9 per cent gain in June. The narrow measure of money supply, called M-0, grew 0.9 per cent in July, compared with an increase of 1.1 per cent in June. The narrow money supply's annual growth rate stands at 7 per cent, above the government's target ceiling of 5 per cent for fiscal 1989 ending next March 31. The lending and money supply increases, though sharp, matched economists' forecasts. London markets shrugged off the data. As expected, the numbers were swollen somewhat by UK home buyers who rushed to take advantage of mortgage-interest tax incentives that ended this month. Monetary officials here have voiced alarm recently over signs of sharp inflationary pressures in the British economy. In an attempt to cool overheating, the government has directed seven increases in banks' base rate since early June. Base rates currently stand at 11 per cent.

Drugs are now a part of the debt crisis equation

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21. (Reuters): A new cause for alarm about the debt crisis is that it risks making Latin America more dependent than ever on selling drugs mostly to the United States.

"The most efficient entrepreneurial system operating in Latin America today is the drug trafficking cartel," said Irving Tragen of the Organisation of American States.

The cartel which floods North America with cocaine did not develop because of debt. But it feeds on the misery of debt-laden economies in which some of the poorest have had to turn to drug production to survive, experts on Latin America say.

Tragen, executive secretary of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, says most coca leaf production is in Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and to some extent, Argentina.

In Brazil, the biggest Third World debtor owing more than \$100 billion, people are also growing coca now.

Tragen and others estimate that a farmer growing coca can earn \$9,000 a hectare. The next most lucrative crop is citrus yielding only about \$500.

Advantages

Working for the drug cartel brings other advantages, too. The cartel provides cash to get a farmer started at a time when banks are less generous — "given the debt overhang, almost all of the private banks or the government agricultural banks have no money to lend," said Tragen.

A decline in commodity prices has added to the problem. Growing coca leaves — first step in making cocaine — is confined to countries in the Amazon basin and Andes but other states are part of the transportation system or consumers.

Meanwhile drug abuse is a hot issue in the US presidential election, raising the possibility that it might prove the spur to a new initiative on debt by the next administration.

Many experts say that without a huge effort to get Latin economies growing again, the drug traffic will continue to advance.

Bank boosts reserves

BEIJING, Aug. 21. (AP): China's central bank has increased the reserves banks will be required to hold in a move to curb excessive lending that has overheated the economy.

The official China Daily said today that as of Sept 1 the People's Bank of China will raise the reserve ratio for banks from 12 to 13 per cent.

The 1 per cent reserve increase will be kept by local branches of the People's Bank for the adjustment of money supply on the market, it said.

Loans

The daily said that as a result of the increased reserve ratio, credit loans will be reduced by more than 30 billion yuan (\$8.1 billion). It did not give a time period for that reduction.

The banks will also be asked to hand in the exact amount of their reserves at one time in September without going into arrears. The reserve ratio was set at 10 per cent in 1983 and increased to 12 per cent last year.

Wall Street likely to bounce up soon

NEW YORK, Aug. 21. (Reuters): So many people have been gloomy about Wall Street stocks lately that some brokerage analysts call it a sign that the market may soon bounce up.

That is not as illogical as it may seem, they would say.

"All the negatives are already out there," said Michael Metz of Oppenheimer and Co. "But the market has discounted them, and the path of least resistance now is upward."

The biggest depressant was a rise in interest rates to their highest this year after a supreme discount rate hike by the Federal Reserve, America's Central Bank, on August 9.

The Dow Jones industrial average had already slipped from around 2,160 points in early July

— its best since the "Black Monday" crash last autumn — and this decline accelerated.

Tighter credit signalled that the Fed had given top priority to pinching a consumer boom that threatened to fuel inflation. But some investors worried that it might pinch hard enough to cause a recession.

Rise

Those fears have eased now, said Allen Sinai of Boston Co/Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc. "The stock market has pretty much adjusted to the latest round of interest rate hikes," he said.

But he still sees the market, from which many others around the globe often take their cue, as likely to "trade and churn" at between 1,900 and 2,100 on the

Dow average.

It lost 21.52 points last week to end Friday on 2,016 after starting the year at 1,938.

But another analyst, John Connolly at Dean Witter Reynolds, sees the Dow breaking up soon, led by a rise in bond prices when it becomes clear that the Fed discount rate jolt will cool the economy enough to reduce inflation.

And Oppenheimer's Metz says: "All interest rates have to do is stabilise here, and the stock market can rally."

The gloomy view on Wall Street is that interest rates will be taken higher as the Fed battles inflation.

But Connolly said that Fed chairman Alan Greenspan was running an "activist" central

bank which was likely to move fast to avoid recession if it judged that one was coming.

In Greenspan's first year in office the Fed had proved flexible and quick to act.

It tightened to prop up the dollar last year, then eased credit dramatically after the "Black Monday" crash to help finance houses with immediate borrowing problems and fire up an economy in which loss of confidence might cause a slump.

Tightened

Then it tightened late last year. And then eased up early this year to avoid recession. Now it had tightened again.

"It looks as if the economy is going to stall here and there is no more need to put on the brakes," said Connolly.

Moscow orders crash programme to increase consumer goods

MOSCOW, Aug. 21. (AP): The government announced yesterday a crash programme to increase production of consumer goods ranging from shirts to refrigerators, warning that continuing shortages undermine support for Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms.

The Council of Ministers, or cabinet, ordered that state-run industries produce 24 billion rubles (\$38 billion) more worth of consumer goods in 1989-90 than originally planned. It gave a preview of the next five-year plan, saying the number of consumer goods produced in 1991-95 will be increased 18 per cent, and the number of cars produced will be tripled.

Produced

But the directive said nothing about improving the chronically poor quality of consumer goods, which Western economists say is the crucial element. The economists say production, actually must be reduced in many cases to allow production of more modern and popular items.

"It has been decided, in particular, to buy in the West equipment for garment factories in order to increase by 50 per cent the number of coats and jackets produced, and by 20 per cent, shirts and knitwear," the news agency Tass reported.

"Production of refrigerators and other electric appliances will be greatly increased. It has been decided to do away with the shortage of spare parts for cars in one to two years," it said.

Shops carrying fashionable clothing are few in Moscow, and the more attractive goods often are sold out the same day they are displayed. Long lines form for many other goods that are of poor quality but also are in short supply.

The relatively few Soviets who own automobiles often cannot find spare parts, a problem that leads to petty theft from well-equipped cars of mirrors, windshield wipers and other items.

The ministers said the first three years of Gorbachev's reform effort so far have failed to improve the supply of goods to Soviet consumers, something that Gorbachev himself has said many times, most recently at a conference of Communist party members at the end of June.

Tass said the party conference and a meeting of the policy-making central committee at the end of July "pointed out that the ongoing scarcity of goods has an adverse impact on people's attitudes to perestroika (restructuring), subverts their trust in the reality of the transformations planned."

Improving the supply and quality of consumer goods is crucial to Gorbachev because he has made it the major goal of his economic reforms. But the Soviet leader and his advisers acknowledge that consumers are no better off now than when the reform effort began.

Changes

Gorbachev has tried to turn Soviet industry around by giving local managers more authority while reducing directives from above and encouraging better pay for good workers.

The Soviet economy traditionally has operated on directives from above for increases in quality, which Western economists say are a sign that officials are not making the changes necessary to ensure better quality.

Bid to improve relations

India and China likely to revive barter trade

NEW DELHI, Aug. 21: Both India and China, in an effort to improve trade relations, are likely to embark on the old barter trade principle to counter the foreign exchange shortage, reports Economic Times.

Both countries are at present working on an ambitious programme of interaction in trade. So far, trade between the two has not been encouraging for India which has been consistently facing an adverse balance of trade with China.

The level of bilateral trade turnover in 1986-87 was Rs 187.67 crore, consisting of exports worth Rs 14.33 crore and imports of Rs 173.34 crores.

Goods

During 1987-88 India's exports to China have amounted to Rs 13.15 crore, as against Rs 12.42 crore in the corresponding period last year, while imports during 1987-88 are valued at Rs 101.77 crore as against Rs 129.12 crore in the corresponding period.

India exports to China goods like tobacco leaves, cotton, precision instruments, medicinal herbs, sugar, steel products, iron ore, chrome ore, dye and dye

stuff, pharmaceuticals, cereals and finished leather.

In return, China sells raw silk, aroma paper, machine parts, pig iron and steel, non-ferrous metals and minerals, drugs, chemicals, pearls (raw), graphite, electrode, gum resin and cables.

India wanted to include paints, tyres and tubes in its export basket but China did not indicate whether it was interested in these items. There is also a possibility of exporting plywood and flat glass from India. China has occasionally bought tea also but in small quantities. There is no indication as yet that it intends to import Indian tea on a regular basis.

China is prepared to purchase from India plywood, jewellery items and wire ropes. Under the protocol signed in 1987, it was also decided that the possibilities for counter trade deals should be examined in order to provide a push to the two-way trade.

According to protocol, India expects to import from China raw silk and silk yarn worth \$40 million pulses, resin, petroleum and petrochemicals and cultivated pearls. It will also import edible oil, cooking coal, mercury

materials, power station equipment and oil drilling equipment.

Traders of the two sides would also be free to have transactions in unlisted items and contracts concluded under the protocol would continue to be valid even beyond the term of the protocol itself.

While the protocol does not set any targets as such, the Indian side indicated that it could supply up to 1.5 million tonnes of iron ore to China. Iron ore exports to China stood at 1.75 lakh tonnes in 1985-86. China's iron ore requirement is likely to go up considerably when its six million capacity steel mill comes up near Shanghai.

Imports

The Chinese have indicated to India that they like the import — about 5 lakh to 7.50 lakh tonnes iron ore. They have also shown interest in buying 8.5 thousand to 1 lakh tonnes of Indian chrome ore.

A trial cargo of Kudremukh iron ore will be shipped to China soon. It was felt that the Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC) should pursue negotiations with the Chinese side in the coming months for

further sales of Indian ore, especially since the quality of Indian ore has proved to be suitable for Chinese needs and can be supplied at competitive prices.

Last year a Chinese delegation visited Orissa to study the possibility of export of iron ore from Paradip port. But the biggest snag is the constraint at the Paradip port where, with its present facilities, it cannot handle shipments of more than 60,000 tonnes.

Chemical imports from India would include bulk drugs intermediates and pharmaceuticals, oil field equipments, chemicals, dyes and pharmaceuticals agrochemicals including pesticides, inorganic and organic chemicals and fatty alkyl benzene.

A FICCI team which visited China in May this year explored the possibilities of offering technologies in two-wheelers, refrigeration equipment, civil engineering and power generation.

The FICCI team also discussed in length the possibilities of exporting commodities like glass, tyres and tubes, auto ancillaries, transformers, pumps, pneumatic tools for con-

struction, textile machinery, heavy duty trucks and tractors and electronics.

Both countries have also agreed in principle to resume border trade across Tibet.

Co-operation

Other items listed for co-operation are anhydrous dextrose and fructose syrup, non-woven fabrics, non-woven toilet cloth, sweaters, knitted fabrics, shaped aluminium, piano production, embroidered dresses, ballpens, aluminium files, copper products, flourite and grained food for fishes.

There are also indications that China will soon place orders for high pressure boilers from India for two 250 MW coal fired utilising stations in China.

In the memorandum of understanding signed recently, China evinced interest in buying boilers from India. This will be the first time that China will buy heavy power equipment from India.

Meanwhile, a Chinese trade delegation which visited India last year had expressed keen desire for technological co-operation with India for modernisation of its cement and building material industry.

ملک کے حالات

Ceasefire will help activate economy

Iraq quota top priority for OPEC

Turkey reins in third year of galloping growth

KD rates steady in liquid market

JAKARTA, Aug. 21. (OPECNA): Indonesia has never sold its oil under discount arrangements, Minister of Mines and Energy Ginandjar Kartasasmita

ster said that as prices were still above the \$16 a barrel level.

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(Netherlands) Limited exceed
£100 million. Latest audited
accounts available on request
from the Managing Director,
Barclays Bank, 125, Abchurch
Lane, London, E.C. 4.

THE LANCET, 1906.

from the Managing Director,
CE COMPANY Mr. Willie Allen

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CE COMPANY Mr. Willie Allen

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION

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SALMIYA, near Passport Office. Two bedroom flat with or without CAC. Reasonable rent. Tele. Arabi, 5629009. (AT1-43563-3)

SALWA, deluxe, CAC apartment in a villa with sea view and swimming pool, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living and dining area, fitted kitchen including separate car park. Rent KD400. Tele. 5382783, 5391720. (AT1-43501-3)

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IN Kuwait City, Fahd Al Salem Street. One room available with water, telephone etc. Tele. 2415891 res. (AT2-43571-3)

IN Maidan Hawalli, behind petrol pump. One room for bachelors or spinners to share with a family. Rent KD 25 each. Tele. Tony 5622851/764. Philip 4846743. (AT2-43582-3)

KUWAIT City near Sheraton Hotel, Al Saheb Saree Store. Accommodation for bachelors to share with a Goan family. Tele. Mr Augustin, 2402867. (AT3-43588-3)

KUWAIT City, Malya bus stop, Al Rabiya Building, 2nd Floor, Flat 11. Independent room for 1/2 bachelors to share with a Goan family. Tele. 2410871, 2421985, 8.30 am - 12.30 pm, 4.30 - 7.30 pm. (AT2-43568-2)

Cars

SUZUKI, Swift Super Saloon 1986, automatic, 30,000 kms, blue, in excellent condition. KD1,000 or KD 33 per month by instalments. Tele. 5385094. (AT1-43554-3)

OLDSMOBILE Cutlass, 82 model fully automatic, 2 doors, dark blue in good condition highest offer. Tele. Mr Alam, 4847381, 4833628 during office hours. (AT1-AL-3)

MITSUBISHI Galant 2000cc, 1986 metallic blue, manual, 45,000 kms with AC, stereo, power brake and steering in excellent condition. KD1,650. Tele. Mr. Mehra, 3940600, ext. 2349, 6 am - 2 pm. (AT2-43577-3)

AUDI QUATRO '83 model, AC, manual, red, with white leather interior in excellent condition. Tele. Mr Adil or Mr Ali, 5511608, 5335599. (AT3-43542-3)

TOYOTA Corona, 1985 model 1.8GL, fully automatic, electric windows/sunroof, regd; till Aug 89, single hand driven, in excellent condition. No accidents. KD 1,550 ono. Tele. Azad, 4742656. (AT3-43594-3)

FIAT Ritmo 85-S, 86 model, automatic, with AC, 4-door, hatchback, 23,000 kms. KD 1,000 or KD 33 per month by instalments. (AT1-43564-3)

HYUNDAI Stellar 1986 model automatic, blue, AC, AM/FM stereo, 52,000 kms, in good condition. KD 1300. Tele. Mr Anwar, 9024265, 9034152 after 1 pm. (AT1-43566-3)

MERCEDES 280S 1985, black, 55,000 kms, manual transmission with 4 doors, power windows, sunroof and AC, KD 4,800 ono. Tele. 2445363, 1 - 2 pm. (AT3-43590-2)

TOYOTA Tercel 1985, low mileage, in immaculate condition. KD 1,200. Tele. 3710214/15 ext. 5202, after 8 pm. (AT3-43592-3)

FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

FARWANIYA, behind Holiday Inn; 3-bedroom flat, CAC with household items for sale. Price KD 750. Rent KD 200. Must sell by the end of the month. Tele. 4735595, 8 am - 2 pm, 5 - 10 pm. (AT2-43581-3)

SALMIYA, near Maroosh; 2 bedroom flat with dining and sitting rooms, 2 bathrooms with tele. fully furnished, on ground floor, available from 1st October. New rent KD 150. Tele. 5738087 after 9.30 am. (AT1-43559-2)

OUTBOARD engine, 115 HP Mercury, completely overhauled with new remote control box, KD250. No bargaining. Tele. 3710530 after 6 pm, 3260978, 7 am - 5 pm. (AT3-43586-3)

WANTED

WANTED Suzuki Jeep. Tele. 5718456 after 3 pm. (AT1-43549-3)

VOLKSWAGEN Beetle, any model from 1980 in good condition. Tele. Mr Saeed, 4812968, 4844057. (AT3-43595-3)

MISCELLANEOUS

HELP needed in running a small catamaran sailing boat from a private beach. If interested, please tele. Norbert, 4837225. (AT3-43575-3)

NAME CHANGE

I, AVINASH Chander, of 3C/40 New Rohtak Road, New Delhi, holder of Indian passport No. B-075714, has changed my name to Avinash Chander Sharma son of late Trik Nath Sharma. (AT3-43584-2)

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For all your shifting with transportation, painting, wall papering, carpet & villa cleaning. We are of your service, with skilled workers. Contact tel: 4748877/4731004. Timings — 8.00 am - 1.00 pm and 4.00 pm - 8.00 pm. Al Mowassil Trdg. (AT1-43559-2)

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PASSPORT No. 198273 in the name of Gopala Gedera Abdul Rahman Sayad Mohamed, Sri Lankan. Finder please Tele. 4713097. (AT3-43593-2)

SITUATIONS

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SALES MANAGER, Egyptian, bachelor of commerce (B.Com) 35 years old, 10 years experience in petrochemicals, petroleum and heavy industries, seeks suitable position. Tele. 641159, Doha, Qatar, from 6 pm. (AT2-43573-3)

Vacant

MAID required, Indian, for a Goan family in Kheitan. Must be efficient and good with children. Tele. 4716517, res. (AT2-43580-2)

MAID required for an Indian family. Must speak English. Tele. Lydia, 5721495, after 5.30 pm. (AT3-43585-2)

MAID required, Filipino, must be experienced, with a transferable residence. Tele. 4839740. (AT6-43547-3)

DRIVER, (male or female) required for a family to take them to school and back, part-time. Tele. Mr Malik, 4832396. (AT3-43587-2)

MAID required, Filipino, part-time for a month only. Tele. Mr Emad, 2462965-6. (AT2-43574-3)

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Advertisement for Indian action films on video, featuring titles like 'The Original & Covered copy' and 'Indian action film on Video Shops'.

Pittsburgh overcome Houston

NEW YORK, Aug. 21, (AP) — Pittsburgh's Barry Bonds had the best solution for breaking up Houston's no-hitter.

Lind's two-run single in the sixth chased Ryan, who had pitched 5 2-3 perfect innings, as Pirates beat the Houston Astros 2-1 yesterday. The victory ended the second-place Pirates' 13-game losing streak.

Lind followed Bonds' single with a single, scoring Smiley and ending the no-hitter. Ryan, who has pitched only one complete game since he was traded to the Pirates, departed after suffering a twisted back covering second base.

"Nolan Ryan is a great pitcher, one of the all-time greats, it nobody was going out there saying, 'uh, oh, he can throw a no-hitter,' Bonds said. 'You've got to get yourself out of that kind of game ... and try to approach it like you were facing any other pitcher.'

In San Francisco, Don Robinson allowed five hits in eight-plus innings and matched a career high with 10 strikeouts as the Reds beat the Phillies 4-3 in the fourth straight victory. It was the Phillies' seventh consecutive defeat, and they are 0-5 in the current West Coast trip.

The Reds' Tom Browning allowed five hits in seven innings and Dave Collins and Nick Esasky drove in two runs apiece as Cincinnati defeated the Cardinals.

Gary Varsho scored the tie-breaking run for the Cubs in the seventh inning in Chicago by catching third and continuing home on catcher Ted Simmons' throwing error as the Braves were edged 5-4.

And in Los Angeles, Kirk Gibson singled home the tying run in the ninth inning and scored the game-winning run on a two-base, wild pitch by reliever Joe Hesketh as the Dodgers beat Montreal 4-3 in their sixth straight victory.

Pinch-hitter Mickey Hatcher hit a one-out double in the ninth and was replaced by pinch-runner Dave Anderson. Anderson scored when Gibson blooped an 11-pitch into short center field.

Gibson stole second, Hesketh, 3-2, threw a 1-2 pitch in the first and through the legs of catcher Nelson Santovenia, who covered the ball at the backstop but threw too late to get Gibson.

In Toronto, Rob Deer's three-run homer kept a five-run third inning and Paul Molitor went 3-for-4 to lead a 17-hit attack as Milwaukee sent Toronto to its fifth straight loss.

Tigers right-hander Walt Terrell improved his lifetime record at Detroit to 36-11 and Wayne Murphy hit a two-run single in the second inning for all three runs needed against the White Sox. Terrell, 7-10, allowed three hits, walked three and struck out three before giving way to Guillermo Hernandez with one out and a runner on first in the ninth.

Results

American League			
title	9	New York	5
time	72	30	590
ro	2	Chicago	1
ro	2	Chicago	1
ro	2	Chicago	1
ro	2	Chicago	1
ro	2	Chicago	1
ro	2	Chicago	1
ro	2	Chicago	1
ro	2	Chicago	1
ro	2	Chicago	1

Standings

American League			
East Division			
ro	W	L	Pct
ro	69	53	.566
ro	66	54	.550
ro	62	50	.558
ro	60	48	.562
ro	59	48	.550
ro	42	80	.344
West Division			
ro	W	L	Pct
ro	77	47	.621
ro	68	54	.558
ro	63	59	.516
ro	61	62	.496
ro	55	65	.455
ro	54	69	.439
ro	49	75	.395
National League			
East Division			
ro	W	L	Pct
ro	71	51	.582
ro	68	55	.553
ro	63	59	.516
ro	61	62	.496
ro	55	65	.455
ro	54	69	.439
ro	49	75	.395
West Division			
ro	W	L	Pct
ro	71	51	.582
ro	68	55	.553
ro	63	59	.516
ro	61	62	.496
ro	55	65	.455
ro	54	69	.439
ro	49	75	.395

EVERT AND SHRIVER KNOCKED OUT OF CANADIAN OPEN

Sabatini and Zvereva to meet in final

MONTREAL, Canada, Aug. 21, (UPI) — Teenagers Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina and Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union yesterday advanced to the final of the \$315,000 Canadian Open with respective triumphs over second and third seeds Chris Evert and Pam Shriver.

Sabatini, 18, dispatched Evert 6-4, 6-3 in a 90-minute match to gain the Sunday meeting with Zvereva, who in the quarterfinals beat top seed Martina Navratilova. The fourth-seeded Sabatini was up a game break in each set over the 33-year-old Evert.

Zvereva, 17 and seeded sixth, whipped Shriver 7-5, 6-3, with speed and precise passing that turned around the match after she was broken by Shriver in the ninth game of the first set. She broke back the next game and proceeded to take 11 straight points to take the set.

Eventually Shriver, 26, had Zvereva at love-40 in the first game of the second set but Zvereva fought back to deuce and eventually won the game before going up a break to win the set and match.

Shriver went to the net 80 times but won points on only 47 per cent of those occasions. Most of the time, Zvereva was able to pass her or make well-placed lobs. By contrast, Zvereva went to the net only 12 times, winning points 58 per cent of the time.

Shriver became frustrated, cursing several times. Other times, she imitated Zvereva's gestures to show her anger at the Soviet.

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Zvereva returns a shot to Shriver in the semifinals. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Sabatini raises her arms in joy after beating Evert. (Reuters wirephoto)

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Gold Cup

THE organising committee of the Salcey United Sports Centre has announced that the 3rd annual Gold Cup football tournament will be held from Sept 9. Entries will be accepted until Sept 1. For further information contact Peter, Tel. 2434415 or Mariano, Tel. 4744150 after 5.00 pm.

Sabah cricket

THE Sabah Cricket Tournament is being organised at the Safeway Cricket Ground, Farwaniya, from Sept 23. Teams interested in taking part in the tournament should contact Naseem Khurshid, Tel. 4815077 ext 513 from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm before Aug 25.

Unity hockey

UNITY Hockey Association (KOC) has scheduled the 1988-89 hockey season to start late next month. Entries of various tournaments will be open until Sept 22. The KOC hockey grounds are available for practice every Sunday and Tuesday. For further information contact Naseem Khurshid, Tel. 3989111 ext 7325 or 3982776 or Khalid Arshad, Tel. 3989111 ext 6228.

YMCA Cup

THE YMCA Winners Cup cricket tournament is scheduled to start soon with the draws set for Aug 26 at 9.00 am at the Kuwaiti Lanka Restaurant in Fahahel. For further information contact Peter Castellino, Tel. 3929518 from 4.30 pm to 8.00 pm. The tournament is being sponsored by the Abdul Hadi Al Mailem Group.

World record

STARA ZAGORA, Bulgaria, Aug 21. (Reuters): Bulgaria's Yordanka Donkova set a world record of 12.21 seconds in the 100 metres hurdles, regaining the best mark from compatriot and arch-rival Ginka Zagorcheva.

OCA chief

THE chairman of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad Al Sabah, has sent invitations to top international sports officials to attend the inauguration of the 7th session of OCA general secretariat in Seoul on September 21.

Czech defector

TORONTO, Aug 21. (AP): Czechoslovak defector Marcel Gery of Toronto was named to Canada's Olympic swimming team dependent on his receiving early Canadian citizenship from the federal government.

Security measures

TOKYO, Aug 21. (AP): Japanese airports today began special security procedures aimed at preventing possible terrorist acts against the Olympic Games, scheduled to begin next month in neighbouring South Korea, officials said.

BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Hubara Bridge Club game held on Saturday:

1. Nabil & Nabil Abdel NS
2. Dr Parekh & Mr Sapre E/W
3. Yaseen & Ghazi E/W
1. John & Neeson
2. Mrs Sapre & D. Pereira
3. Mrs B. Pereira & D. Souza

AQUITA SETS PERSONAL BEST TIME IN 800M

Smith speeds past Johnson again

COLOGNE, West Germany, Aug 21. (Reuters): American Calvin Smith beat world record holder Ben Johnson for the second time in five days today, winning the men's 100 metres at the Cologne Athletics Grand Prix.

Smith, who held the world record until Johnson smashed it in Rome almost a year ago, caught the Canadian in the last 20 metres to win in a modest 10.16 seconds in blustery conditions.

Just as in Zurich last Wednesday, where he finished behind Carl Lewis and Smith, Johnson was fast out of the blocks and led for most of the race only to fade badly in the final stretch.

Overhauled

As in Zurich, Johnson had to settle for third place. He was overhauled by American Dennis Mitchell in the last strides, clocking 10.29 to Mitchell's 10.27.

Moroccan Said Aouita was in masterful form as he set a personal best time in winning his third Grand Prix 800 metres in nine days.

Despite a rain shower which began just after the race started, Aouita clocked one minute 43.86 seconds.

He was sixth at the bell and moved up to third behind Brazil's 1984 Olympic champion Joaquim Cruz and his compatriot Jose-Luis Barboza with 200 metres left.

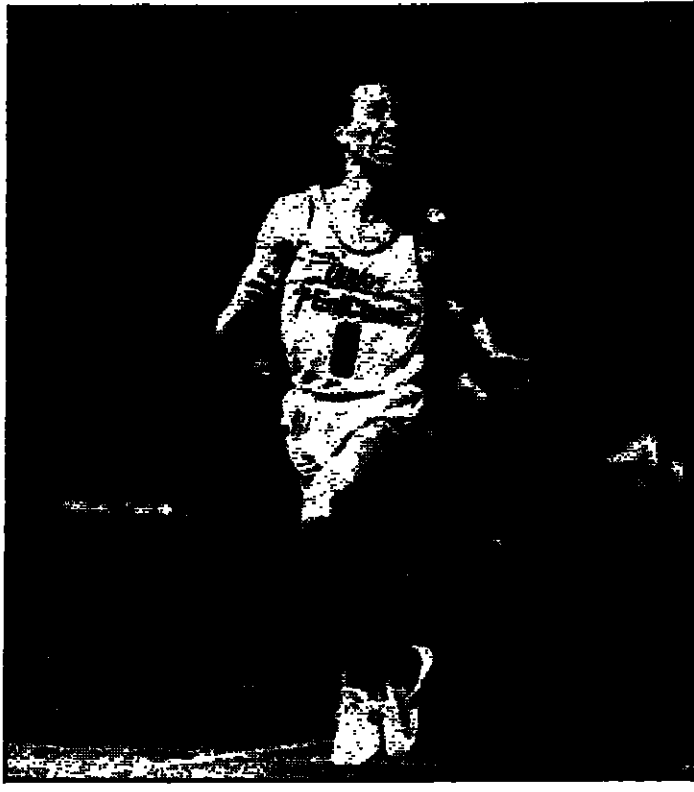
Forced to go the long way around the two burly Brazilians to win, Aouita effortlessly did just that, timing his run to perfection down the finishing straight.

The cold and occasionally windy conditions prevented many other outstanding performances.

West German athletes trying to prove their fitness for Seoul after recent injuries failed badly. Former world steeplechase champion Patriz Ilg and 400 metres hurdles stalwart Harald Schmid failed to finish their events, and 1984 Olympic high jump champion Dietmar Mögenburg could manage only 2.20 metres.

The men's 400 metres hurdles was won by American Danny Harris in 49.85 seconds, while Jamaican Grace Jackson used her long legs to advantage to cruise past the rest of the field in the finishing straight and win the women's 400 metres.

Meanwhile, Russ Rogers, the head sprint coach of the US Olympic track and field team,



Aouita: won easily

said here yesterday that Carl Lewis was not behaving in the best interests of the American

Olympic team. Lewis and Joe de Loach, his Santa Monica club teammate,

were not included in the American 4x100 metres relay team that ran an Olympic warm-up at the Ivo van Damme Memorial meet in Brussels on Friday.

Lewis won the 100 metres in 10.04 seconds and de Loach took the 200m in 20.03 seconds.

Lewis came into the press box at the Heysel stadium to tell reporters that Rogers had left him out of the relay squad and was "acting like a high school teacher," by not including him and de Loach.

Working

But yesterday Rogers told UPI prior to today's Weltklasse meet here, "Carl made that situation for himself, so did Joe de Loach. The guys that ran Friday night — Albert Robinson, Lee McNeill, Calvin Smith and Dennis Mitchell — have all been working at the training camp at Davos in Switzerland for the last month.

"But neither Joe nor Carl has been near or by the place. What am I supposed to do? Just because Carl Lewis tells me, 'I want to run in the relay and I want Joe to run as well', am I to drop two guys who have been working for me the last four weeks?"

Kent keep up bid for county title

LONDON, Aug 21. (Reuters): England manager Micky Stewart saw his new paceman David Lawrence sorely tested by Chris Tavare as County Cricket Championship leaders Kent kept up their title bid with a fine start against Gloucestershire yesterday.

Tavare hit four fours in an over off Lawrence as Kent reached a well-placed 202 for three against Gloucestershire at the close of the first day of their three-day match.

Stewart was in Bristol to also keep an eye on his other new Test recruit from Gloucestershire — wicketkeeper Jack Russell.

Lawrence, on a day which saw 45 overs lost to rain, had only five overs before tea when captain David Graveney took him off to keep him fresh for the England Test against Sri Lanka starting at Lord's on Thursday.

Mark Benson was top scorer for Kent with 70, including eight fours, off 120 balls. Tavare (35) added 67 in 20 overs with Roy Pienaar, who was 39 not out. Leicestershire paceman Jon-



Benson: scored 70

athan Agnew, again ignored by the England selectors, took five for 47 against Somerset in another match frequently interrupted by rain.

Agnew brought his total of wickets for the season to 87, putting him within reach of 100 wickets for the second year running.

Only a determined performance by Julian Wyatt (57) held Somerset together as they struggled to 158 for nine. Wyatt, drop-



Agnew: five for 47

ped by Agnew at slip off Phillip DeFreitas when he had made 20, reached his half-century in 103 minutes off 82 balls.

Stubborn batting by England pair Graham Gooch and Derek Pringle, coupled with a 34 from Australian captain Allan Border, enabled Essex to reach 230 for six in 88 overs against second-placed Worcestershire.

Gooch hit only seven fours in a 207-minute innings before being stumped off Paul Pringle.

Reigning champions Nottinghamshire, who have the lowest batting points tally of all the counties, had another bad day with the bat, reaching 122 for nine after being put in by Surrey at Trent Bridge.

Scores

At Bristol: Kent 202 for three in 67 overs (M. Benson 70, N. Taylor 41) v Gloucestershire.

At Hincley: Somerset 158 for nine in 51.2 overs (J. Wyatt 57) v Leicestershire.

At Uxbridge: Warwickshire 212 in 78.2 overs (A. Lloyd 101, N. Cowans six for 49), Middlesex 66 for two in 23 overs.

At Wellingborough: Glamorgan 168 for eight in 66 overs (G. Holmes 64 not out) v Northamptonshire.

At Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire 122 for nine in 57.4 overs v Surrey.

At Worcester: Essex 230 for six in 88 overs (G. Gooch 72, D. Pringle 43 not out) v Worcestershire.

At Old Trafford: Lancashire v Derbyshire: no play possible because of rain.

Wasim out

LONDON, Aug 21. (Reuters): Wasim Akram, Lancashire's 22-year-old Pakistani paceman, had a minor operation on a groin strain yesterday and will miss the rest of the English county cricket season.

Lietzke on top after 3rd round

CASTLE ROCK, Colo., Aug 21. (Reuters): American Bruce Lietzke carried the hottest hand yesterday to lead at the end of the third round of the \$1.1 million International Golf Tournament with 14 Stableford points.

Lietzke thus led the way into today's final round and will be challenged by 17 others in the race for the first-place prize of \$180,000 here at the Castle Pines Golf Club.

There were 54 golfers in the starting field yesterday and scoring was exceptional in the perfect conditions. Americans Ben Crenshaw and Jodie Mudd were tied with 13 points going into today's final round.

Awarded

Under the modified Stableford scoring system, five points are awarded for eagles — and Crenshaw had one yesterday — two points are awarded for birdies, zero for pars, minus-one for bogeys and minus-three for double-bogeys or worse — and Jack Nicklaus had two double-bogeys.

Nicklaus appeared to be in position to make it into the final round until he drove the ball into scrub brush on the par-five 17th hole.

After trying to hit a shot left-handed and taking unplayable lie drops, he finally finished without holing out, thus taking credit for a double-bogey. He then bogeyed the last hole, to finish with only three points. He lost four points on those two holes. He would have made it with seven.

Lietzke had eight birdies and two bogeys and said he was able to build up a large enough lead early in the round that he could relax through the incoming nine. Nicklaus finished in a four-way tie for 34th, worth \$5,275 from the total purse of \$1 million. That was enough to make him the first man to reach \$5 million in career earnings. He's now at \$5,002,825.

Nicklaus also was the first to reach \$2 million, \$3 million and \$4 million in official Professional

Gower denies plans to play in S. Africa

LONDON, Aug 21. (Reuters): Former England skipper David Gower denied today that he would take part in a single-wicket cricket competition in South Africa next month.

"I know of this tournament but there is no danger of my taking part in it. I want to go to India with England this winter and there is no way I'd want to make waves by going to South Africa beforehand," he said.

Gower, who was dropped from the England Test team earlier this season, was listed by a British newspaper yesterday as among a number of players invited to take part in the competition next month.

Asked

England captain Graham Gooch admitted yesterday that he had been approached to play in South Africa, which is barred from international cricket because of its apartheid policies.

"I have been asked, along with a lot of others, but that is as far as it has gone," Gooch said.

One newspaper said three other England players — Chris Broad, Tim Robinson and South African-born Allan Lamb — were under contract to play in the competition.

Their participation could jeopardise England's planned tour of India later this year.

Van Dijk aims to gold medal at Games

BRUSSELS, Aug 21. (Reuters): Belgian steeplechaser William van Dijk thinks he can win a gold medal at the Seoul Olympics — but he knows he will have to push his spare 65-kg frame perilously close to breaking point.

Van Dijk, 27, is a top contender in the 3,000 metres steeplechase — a bone-jolting obstacle course over wooden barriers and water-jumps and one of the most punishing events in athletics.

In Seoul, Van Dijk will have to run three such races in a five-day period — a heat, a semifinal and the final — if he can survive.

Travelling

"Such a race kills you, especially if you're not in top form," Van Dijk told Reuters recently before travelling to Switzerland for two weeks' altitude training.

The 91-cm high barriers that force the steeplechaser to break stride are 70 metres apart. The 3.66-metre wide water-jump every lap threatens not just a soaking for a runner who mistakes his leap but a twisted ankle or knee.

"Time and time again you jump over these barriers until you're dead tired," said Van Dijk, a wiry figure with a shock of straw-coloured hair.

"After a while you slow down before every obstacle, you need more energy to jump and you expend all that's left in you to accelerate again," he said.

Contrary to popular belief, steeplechasers do not try to leap over the water jump. "It's better to land in the water," Van Dijk said. "If you jump further, you use more force and the shock hits you harder."

Van Dijk shot to prominence in 1986 by recording the fastest time of the season and winning the Grand Prix standings.

But that year ended on a sour

note when he damaged his knee in practice, an injury that sidelined him for five months.

He came back to take the bronze medal at the World Championships in Rome just a few months later, despite not being at peak fitness.

The soft-spoken Van Dijk, whose best time stands at eight minutes 10.01 seconds, feels he can beat Kenyan Henry Rono's world record of 8:05.40.

"If I run well and I have a fast

pace, I can definitely do it," he said.

But his ambition this year is not to break the world record but to win the gold at Seoul. He talks like a man who will be disappointed at anything less.

"I'm afraid of nobody. There's no runner that I can't beat," he said. "If I fail in Seoul, my year will be ruined."

His long loping stride and effortless movement over the barriers make Van Dijk easy to pick out in a pack.

His main rival in Seoul is likely to be Italian world champion Francesco Panetta. But he also expects a big challenge from a new generation of Kenyan runners.

He sees his trump card as his near-flawless technique. "Technique is very important in the final kilometre of a race," he said.

His greatest disappointment so far has been the 1986 European Championships where he finished fifth after a tactical blunder.

"I knew I was everyone's favourite and I failed," he said. "I was taught a lesson I'll never forget."

Despite the suffering, he hopes to continue his athletics career for a further seven years. By the age of 35, he believes, his best steeplechasing years will be behind him.

Thompson and Hingsen way below medal form

LAGE, West Germany, Aug 21. (Reuters): Daley Thompson and Juergen Hingsen, gold and silver medalists respectively at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, were both out of sorts on the first day of a non-competitive decathlon yesterday.

Hingsen, trying to set a high score to prove his fitness for the Seoul Olympics after a long series of injuries, invited his British arch-rival to northern Germany to help him achieve the Olympic qualifying mark of 8,400 points.

Hingsen had 4,205 points after completing five disciplines yesterday. Thompson has already qualified for the Olympics.

Both men began with a poor 100 metres, Thompson's 10.84 seconds being his slowest for more than a decade and Hingsen trailing in 11.26.

Hingsen, 30, recorded 7.44 metres for the long jump, worse than in his last incomplete decathlon two months ago.

Thompson, looking dejected and far from fit enough to win a third successive Olympic gold in Seoul, jumped 6.97 metres — his worst ever.

Pulled

The Briton, who had not intended to compete in all 10 events, pulled out of the shot after a first no-throw, while Hingsen recorded 15.62 metres.

They both cleared 1.98 metres in the high jump. Hingsen then ran the 400 metres in 49.46 seconds but Thompson did not start that race.

Xuereb takes PSG clear at top of table

PARIS, Aug 21. (Reuters): A goal by striker Daniel Xuereb five minutes before halftime gave Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) a 1-0 away victory over Toulon to carry them two points clear at the top of the French League yesterday.

It was a typically workmanlike performance by the Paris club who have won six out of seven matches this season while conceding only one goal, after struggling to avoid relegation last season.

They lead Auxerre, comfortable 3-0 winners over newly promoted Caen, by two points and have a game in hand.

Bordeaux, the only unbeaten side in the League, looked set for an impressive away win in Toulouse thanks to a 35th minute goal from new English signing Clive Allen.

Snatch

But the home side, who had midfielder Pascal Despeyroux sent off in the 73rd minute, hit a last-minute equaliser through veteran Dominique Rocheteau to snatch a 1-1 draw.

Champions Monaco also grabbed a 90th minute goal from midfielder Marcel Dibi to take all three points at Saint-Etienne and move up to fifth in the table on 14 points.

If Xuereb's goal was a persuasive argument for his case to play for France in Wednesday's friendly against Czechoslovakia, the other two strikers in the squad were no less eloquent.

Jean-Pierre Papin scored twice in Marseille's 3-2 away victory in Strasbourg and Stephane Paille got the goal which gave Sochaux a 1-0 win over Metz.

Mitchell passes Williams on final dive

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug 21. (AP): Olympic silver medalist Michele Mitchell scored 72.90 points on her final dive to pass reigning national champion Wendy Lian Williams and finish first in the platform finals at the US Olympic diving trials.

Mitchell, a seven-time national platform champion, scored 466.26 points yesterday to give her 913.68 for her 16 dives in the two-day competition.

Williams, who won the national indoor and outdoor platform championships this year, was second with 906.87 and also earned an Olympic berth.

Heading

Wendy Wyland, the 1984 Olympic platform bronze medalist and the 1982 world platform champion, finished third with 871.74 after heading into the finals in fifth place. Her score for the final night matched Mitchell's and, under the old format for the Olympic trials, she would have been going to Seoul, rather than Williams.

International rules, being used for the first time this year, combine scores from the prelims with those from the finals. Previously, prelim scores were not included in the finals.

Greg Louganis, the defending gold medalist in springboard



Kimball does a back 2-1/2 somersault pike position. (Reuters wirephoto)

and platform diving, placed first earlier yesterday and controversial Bruce Kimball was third after the men's preliminary platform competition.

Kimball's car plowed into a group of teens on a dead-end street in Brandon, Florida, on Aug 1. Two teens were killed and six others were injured. Kimball,

a silver medal winner at the Los Angeles Games, was charged with five felony counts of driving under the influence and is competing while free on \$10,000 bond pending an Aug 29 court hearing.

Matt Scoggin moved into second place, ahead of Kimball, on the last round of the prelims.

When the scoreboard showed Kimball had dropped out of second place, loud cheers and applause went up from six protesters wearing pink T-shirts with the words "remember the victims" in blue letters on their backs.

The six, who sat silently whenever Kimball dived and applauded the other competitors, made the 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometre) trip from Brandon and have been conducting an orderly protest to Kimball's participation.

The top two finishers qualify for the US team going to the Seoul Olympics, and the protesters maintain Kimball should not be allowed to represent the United States.

Louganis, who qualified for his fourth Olympic team by winning the springboard event on Friday night, scored 665.19 points for his 10 dives in the prelims.

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